BLOOD ALONE

The Characters

Kuroe Kurose

A young man who makes a living as a novelist and works as a P.I. & man-for-hire on the side. Thanks to the special abilities his eyes have gained, he can see past any tricks by anyone with supernatural powers. He is a bit naive to the feelings of women around him, and he currently lives with Misaki as her guardian.

Misaki Minato

Little is known about her past except for the fact that her father was a famous musician. Both she and her father were targeted by vampires, and Misaki has been turned as a result. However, the vampire side of her still lays dormant, so she acts no differently than any other girl her age.

Sayaka Sainome

She is the daughter of a rich doctor, and currently works as the chief of the forensics department with the police. She's known Kuroe since their days as students, and she occasionally calls upon Kuroe for his special abilities. She possibly has feelings for Kuroe, and she also apparently has a special ability.

Higure

Despite his looks and the way he acts, he is one of the most powerful vampires left in the world. He is a friend of Misaki, and as an elder vampire, he is also in a sense her mentor.

Sly

A vampire who is in the business of selling information as well as working as a man for hire. He apparently has a good working relationship with Kuroe and hates vampires for turning him into one.

Maria

A renfield who was previously under the influence of a secret order of vampire assassins, she is now under Higure's protection. She is also Misaki's only female friend of the same age.

The story so far...

Upon seeing his sister taken from him by a vampire, Kuroe's life mission was to find his sister and get revenge on the vampire who shattered his life. With the power he gained through an injury to his eyes, he traveled to Europe where a famous vampire hunter trained him to become one of the humans most feared by vampires.

Currently, he lives in Japan with a young girl named Misaki who had the unfortunate fate of being turned. While he thinks of her more as a daughter or as a younger sister, she sees things very differently.

Translator's Notes

In Blood Alone, we translated the Japanese word "mahoutsukai" as "magician" which is a very literal translation of the word. However, the English sense of the word "magician" is that of someone who does magic tricks. The Japanese sense of the word is closer to that of a witch & warlock. But because the English words witch & warlock have a negative connotation (as in the person(s) being evil) whereas the Japanese word generally has a positive connotation, we translated the word literally as "magician." So in the world of Blood Alone, a magician is someone who can cast magic spells and can be either good or evil.

BLOOD ALONE 4

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BLOOD ALONE 4

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FROWN...
.....
WHY DON'T WE HAVE SOME CAKE AND TRY TO FORGET ABOUT IT.
OKAY?
UM...
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO STAY UPSET ALL NIGHT, ARE YOU..?

SPLAT
AH..!!
SLAP
KYA..!
HMP
WHA... HONESTLY —!!
IT... IT'S NO USE.
I SHOULDN'T RAISE MY VOICE...
SLUMP
THAT WOULD ONLY UPSET HIM FURTHER. AND I WOULDN'T WANT THAT WOULD I?
BE PATIENT, BE PATIENT, BE PATIENT...
DI'RI'RING~
DI'RI'RING~

MISAKI?
IT'S ME.
HELLO ..?
.....?
IS SOME-THING WRONG?
.....
.....
EH?
I...
I CAN'T DO THIS.

HE PURPOSELY THREW THE CAKE AND OTHER SNACKS I PREPARED FOR HIM ON THE FLOOR.
YAAH~!
YANK
TOSS
AND IF I SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT AT ALL HE STARTS SCREAMING AND CRYING. WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?!
HE KEEPS PULLING ON MY HAIR AS A PRANK, AND HE RANDOMLY THROWS TANTRUMS FOR NO REASON.

I MEAN HE'S... THAT CHILD IS SO SPOILED!!

HMM~.. THAT DOES SOUND LIKE YOU HAVE YOUR HANDS FULL...

WE SHOULD BE THERE SOME TIME TONIGHT SO PLEASE WATCH OVER HIM FOR ME UNTIL THEN, OKAY?
.....
I'M JUST ABOUT TO PICK UP HIS MOTHER TO COME AND GET HIM.
BUT REGARDLESS, I WAS HOPING THAT YOU COULD WATCH OVER HIM FOR A BIT LONGER.
VROOM
I UNDERSTAND... I'LL DO MY BEST.
OKAY...
EH..?
I WONDER HOW SOMEONE CAN BECOME SO SPOILED AND ACT LIKE SUCH A BRAT...
I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE HOW ANYONE COULD TURN OUT LIKE THAT, IT'S ALMOST A MYSTERY
BUT YOU KNOW...
THANKS.

NO, NO. IT'S NOTHING... I WAS JUST THINKING BACK TO WHEN YOU WERE QUITE A HANDFUL AS WELL.
.....
...WAIT A SECOND. WHY AREN'T YOU SAYING ANYTHING?
OH, I WAS NEVER ANYTHING LIKE THAT...
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A SWEET YOUNG LADY.
NO, REALLY...
EVEN IF YOU GOT TOGETHER A BUNCH OF CHILDREN FROM HERE AND THERE, I DON'T THINK ANY OF THEM WOULD HAVE BEEN A MATCH FOR YOU.
WHAT~?! THAT'S NOT TRUE~!!
HA HA HA.

HAAA
HAAA
SON OF A...
!!
Part I

Note: Vanatoare is a Romanian word for vampire hunter

Episode 20

LONDON WALTZ

霧の中のお姫様 — The Princess within the Mist

THERE'S NO POINT IN TRYING TO BUY MORE TIME...
WAIT, YOU'RE ASIAN..? DO YOU EVEN UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING?
I PLAN ON TURNING YOU INTO ASHES BEFORE THAT WOUND OF YOURS HEALS

WEREN'T ALL OF YOU BUDDHISTS SUPPOSED TO BE MERCIFUL OR SOMETHING?
BUT... BEFORE YOU PULL THAT TRIGGER, I WANTED TO LEAVE BEHIND A FEW WORDS... THAT'S OK WITH YOU, RIGHT?
.....
I GIVE UP. I LOST.
AL... ALRIGHT, THEN.
WELL, UM...
.....
FINE... WHAT IS IT YOU WANTED TO SAY?
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY.
MY BAD...
WOOSH

CRACK
HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT?!
JUST BECAUSE WE'RE ORPHAN VAMPIRES
IT DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE ALWAYS ALONE...
WOULDN'T YOU AGREE, MR. VANATOARE..?

HAAA
HAAA
THERE!
RIGHT THERE!!
ON YOUR RIGHT MAN! YOUR RIGHT!!
DAMN IT...
THIS BASTARD ...!!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING MAN?! YOU'RE GONNA LET HIM GET AWAY AT THIS RATE!!
MAN, SHUT THE HELL UP! YOU'RE YAKKING BACK THERE LIKE SOME STUPID BITCH!!
SWISH
THIS GUY'S REALLY FAST AND AGILE~!!
YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN IN ONE CLEAN HIT THIS WHOLE TIME HAVE YOU~?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU CAN'T EVEN TAKE OUT ONE UNARMED HUMAN
GEEZE TALK ABOUT LOOKING BAD...
HEY...

SO STOP SITTING THERE ACTING LIKE YOU'VE GOT EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL ~!
AND BESIDES, YOU'RE FULL OF BULLET HOLES!
LOOK AT YOUR ARM MAN. IT'S BROKEN!!
DAMN DUDE, THAT'S PATHE-TIC~!!
I SAID SHUT UP!!
HUH?
DA
GUYS TASTE LIKE CRAP AND IT'S MUCH MORE FUN MESSING AROUND WITH WOMEN!
HAAA
HAAA
I'M DONE PLAYING AROUND! LET'S JUST GET THIS OVER WITH SO WE CAN GO EAT SOME GIRLS IN THE AREA!!
WHAT?
MAN. FORGET THIS... GIVE ME THAT GUN!
I SAID GIVE ME THAT GUN!!

I WANT YOU TO SUFFER BEFORE YOU DIE..!
DAMN VANATOARE
THU-THUNK
GAH?

UWAA ..?!
SLAM
CRACK

WHAT THE..?!
STEP
THU-THUMP
SHLING

JUST BECAUSE WE'RE VANATOARE...
DOESN'T MEAN WE ALWAYS HUNT ALONE. WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?
SON OF A...
DID YOU... REALLY THINK...
THAT YOU COULD KILL VAMPIRES... WITH SOME THING LIKE THIS...
ZZZT
YES, I KNOW.

BZZZZ
OWAAAAA!!

YIPPIE KAY AY~
BITCH ~
JESSIE ~!!
JESSIE ..!!

SORRY BUT WOULD YOU MIND GIVING ME A HAND..?
KUROE.
PSSSHH
!!
LEAN
JESSIE ~!!

PLEASE, DON'T MAKE THAT FACE, KUROE.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT THAT I WAS HURT
BUT JESSIE...
STOP RIGHT THERE KUROE.
JUST LIKE THAT, YOU ALWAYS THINK EVERYTHING IS YOUR FAULT
IT'S A BAD HABIT OF YOURS.
.....
THE ONLY PERSON AT FAULT IS MYSELF FOR LETTING DOWN MY GUARD.
WELL— TO BE MORE ACCURATE, PART OF THE BLAME SHOULD FALL ON "HIM" FOR GIVING US SUCH UNRELIABLE INFORMATION...
♪
♪

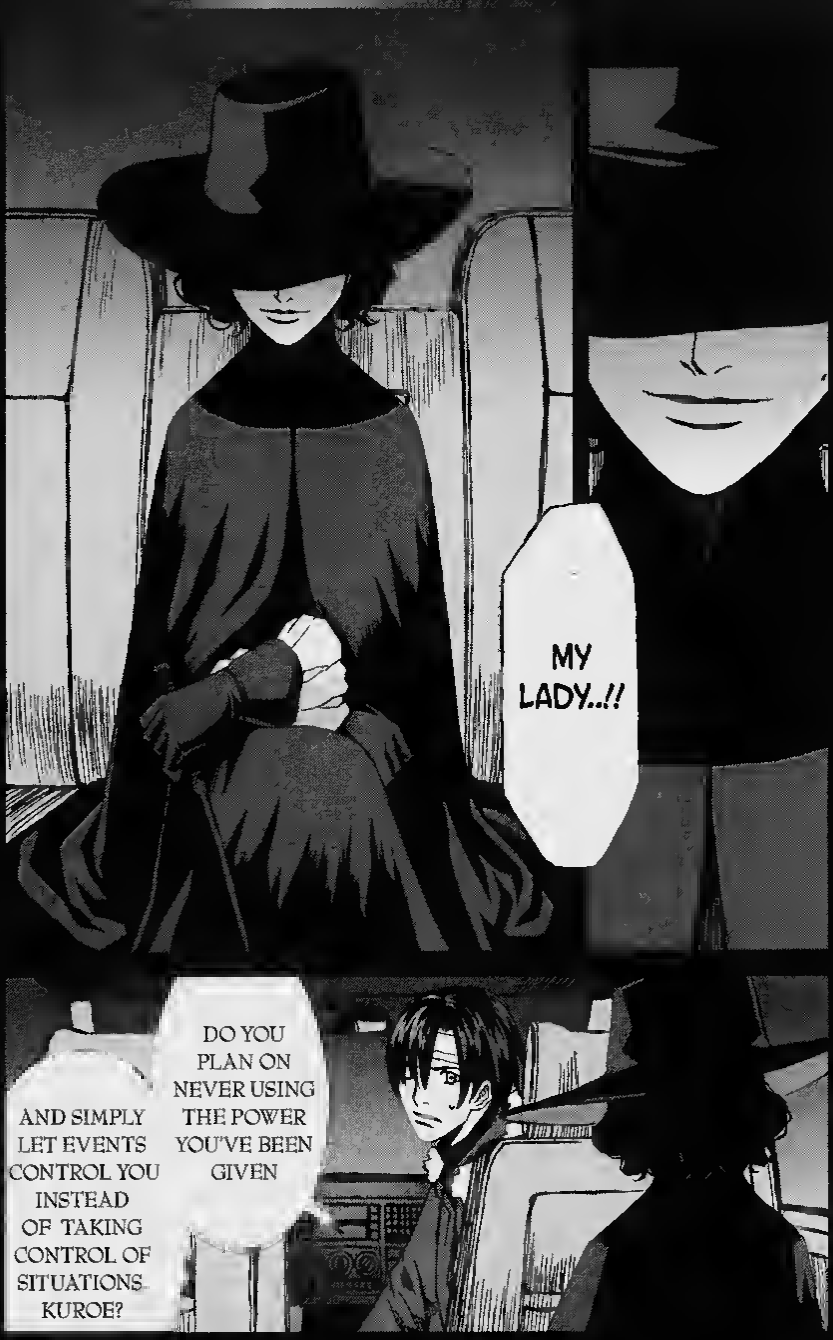
JESSIE ~!!
SLAM
AH... LOOK AT YOU....
IT HURTS ME TO SEE YOU LIKE THIS JESSIE~!!
THIS IS AN OUTRAGE!! I WON'T GO EASY ON THE PEOPLE THAT DID THIS TO YOU!!
IF I HAD THE POWER, I'D FIND THE CREEPS THAT DID THIS AND GIVE THEM A GOOD BEATING!!
IF YOU'RE REFERRING TO THE ONES RESPONSIBLE I'VE ALREADY TURNED THEM INTO DUST.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT HAPPENED..?

IT WOULD SEEM AS THOUGH INTELLIGENCE FROM SCOTLAND YARO ISN'T AS RELIABLE AS I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE. WOULD YOU CARE TO COMMENT ALLEN?
Note: Scotland Yard is the name of London's metropolitan police
WHAT WERE YOU PLANNING ON DOING IF AN ARUHIEK HAPPENED TO BE THERE AS WELL...?
YOU DIDN'T TELL US THAT THERE WOULD BE TWO OF THEM.
Note: Aruhiek = Elder Generation
WELL, PLEASE DON'T BE SO HARD ON ME JESSIE—
POP
MMM~...
WE'RE SO SHORT ON MANPOWER THAT WE EVEN HAVE TO RESORT TO GETTING HELP FROM OUTSIDERS LIKE YOURSELVES.
SO IT CAN'T BE HELPED IF WE SIMPLY DON'T HAVE THE MANPOWER TO THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATE EVERYTHING FIRST.
EVEN IF YOU SAY "SCOTLAND YARO," ALL WE EVER DO WHEN IT INVOLVES CASES LIKE THIS IS TO CLEAN UP AFTER DEAD BODIES.
SQUEAK SQUEAK

CHA RA RAN~
AH~ THAT WOULD BE MY BEEPER
YOU KNOW, YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY RIGHT TO SAY THAT
WELL, THIS TIME AROUND LET'S LOOK AT IT THIS WAY... INSTEAD OF ONE EVIL VAMPIRE, YOU GOT RID OF TWO EVIL VAMPIRES. ISN'T THAT A REWARD IN ITSELF? WHY DON'T WE JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT?
MY APOLOGIES JESSIE
IT'S A SHAME I HAVE TO RUN OFF SO QUICKLY BUT I HAVE SOMEPLACE TO BE
I'LL PASS.
WHAT I WOULD LIKE IS INFORMATION THAT I CAN TRUST.
I'LL HAVE SOMEONE SEND A BOUQUET OF ROSES LATER
AND I'LL POUR ALL OF MY LOVING THOUGHTS INTO IT SO THAT YOU'LL RECOVER THAT MUCH FASTER

GOOD DAY THEN.
SIGH~
KUROE, WOULD YOU MIND READING ME WHAT HE WROTE?
AH... OF COURSE.
.....
EH..?! OH, UM... IT'S NOTHING.
WHAT'S WRONG?
HERE, I'LL ERASE IT FOR YOU!
I SEE... THANK YOU.

ダーン!!!
SLAM
DAMN IT..!!
HOW PATHETIC
TURN


MY LADY..!!
DO YOU PLAN ON NEVER USING THE POWER YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN
AND SIMPLY LET EVENTS CONTROL YOU INSTEAD OF TAKING CONTROL OF SITUATIONS KUROE?

IS IT BECAUSE YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN INTANGIBLE POWERS YOU CAN'T SEE WITH YOUR OWN EYES?
WE BOTH KNOW IT'S A POWER THAT YOU NEED
WHY WON'T YOU USE IT?
.....!!
HAVE YOU ALREADY FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOUR SISTER WHO WAS KIDNAPPED BY ADIVUARAT KURAI
Note: Adivuarat Kurai = The eyes that see the truth
HM. LOOKING AT YOUR REACTION IT SEEMS I WAS RIGHT
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT~!!
I...
IS BECAUSE YOU CAN'T COME TO GRIPS WITH THE ADIVUARAT KURAI POWER YOU POSSESS AND YOU'RE MERELY TRYING TO LASH OUT AT SOMETHING TO BURY YOUR ANGER. AM I RIGHT?
EVEN THE REASON YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME HUNTING DOWN INSIGNIFICANT ORPHANS

NO, YOU'RE WRONG!!
BUT IT'S TRUE
YOU'VE ONLY TRAINED IN MARTIAL ARTS FOR A FEW YEARS. HOW WILL THAT HELP YOU?
YOU CAN TRY AND FOOL YOURSELF INTO THINKING THAT YOU'VE BECOME STRONGER. BUT IN YOUR CURRENT STATE YOU WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO CATCH A SINGLE STRAND OF HAIR OFF OF "HIS" EYEBROW
WHILE YOU SIT THERE FROZEN IN YOUR BLIND FOOLISHNESS
YOU'LL MOST LIKELY END UP LOSING ANOTHER PERSON WHO IS PRECIOUS TO YOU
PATHETIC... YOU TRULY ARE NOTHING BUT A WORTHLESS PATHETIC MAN, AREN'T YOU?

I USUALLY WATCH OVER HER WHENEVER HE'S AWAY
MR. REIJI'S DAUGHTER..?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
BUT MY LEG IS IN THIS CONDITION SO...
I WAS HOPING YOU COULD TAKE CARE OF HER FOR ME, KUROE.

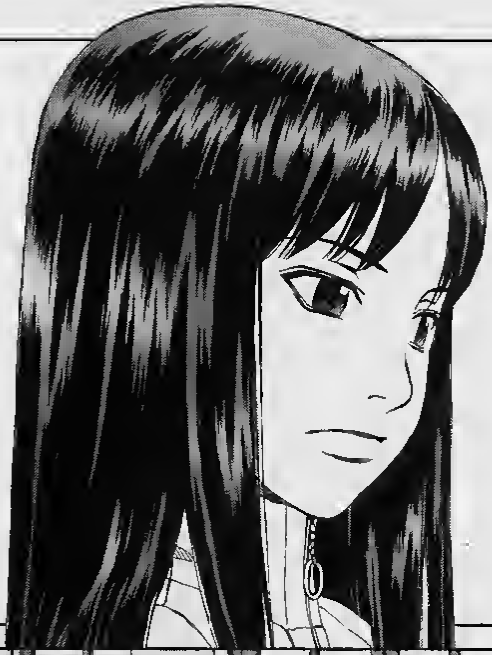
I SEE... THEN I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOUR REACTION WHEN YOU FIRST MEET HER~
SPEAKING OF WHICH, HAVE YOU MET HER YET..?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN..?
NO... I DON'T I THINK SO...
OH~ IT'S NOTHING. I WAS MERELY TALKING TO MYSELF.
CLICK
WELL THEN~ I'LL LEAVE HER HIGHNESS IN YOUR HANDS.
STOP

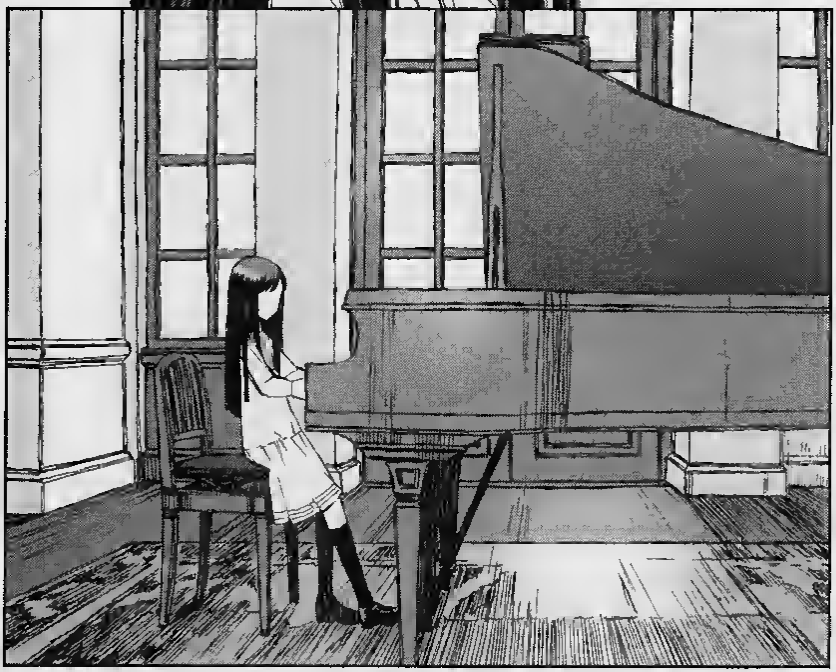
OH, THAT'S RIGHT... I KEEP FORGETTING THAT MR. REIJI IS RICH...

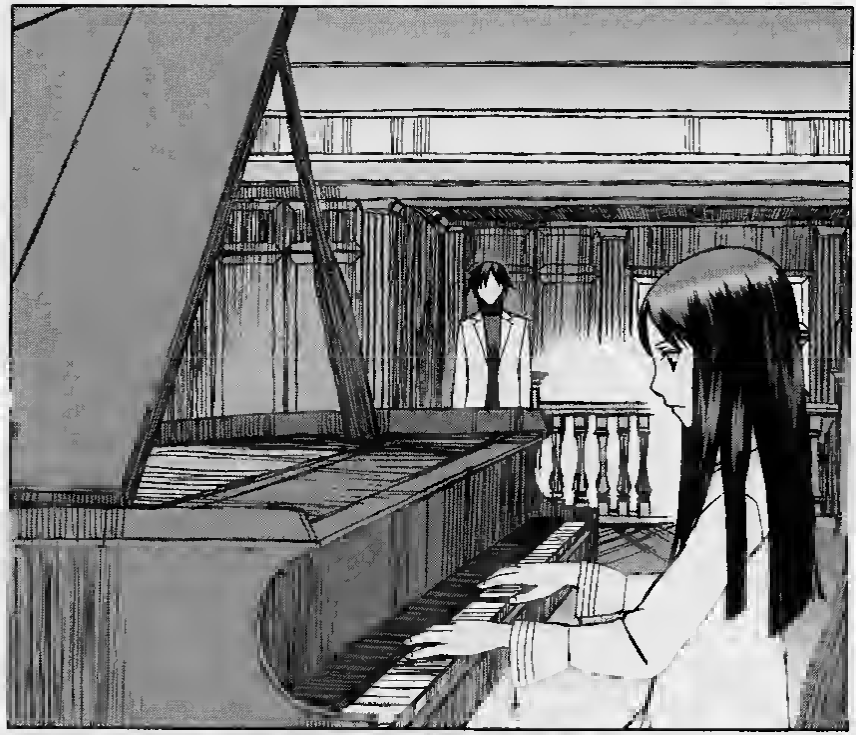
UWAA...
THAT'S ONE AMAZING MANSION.

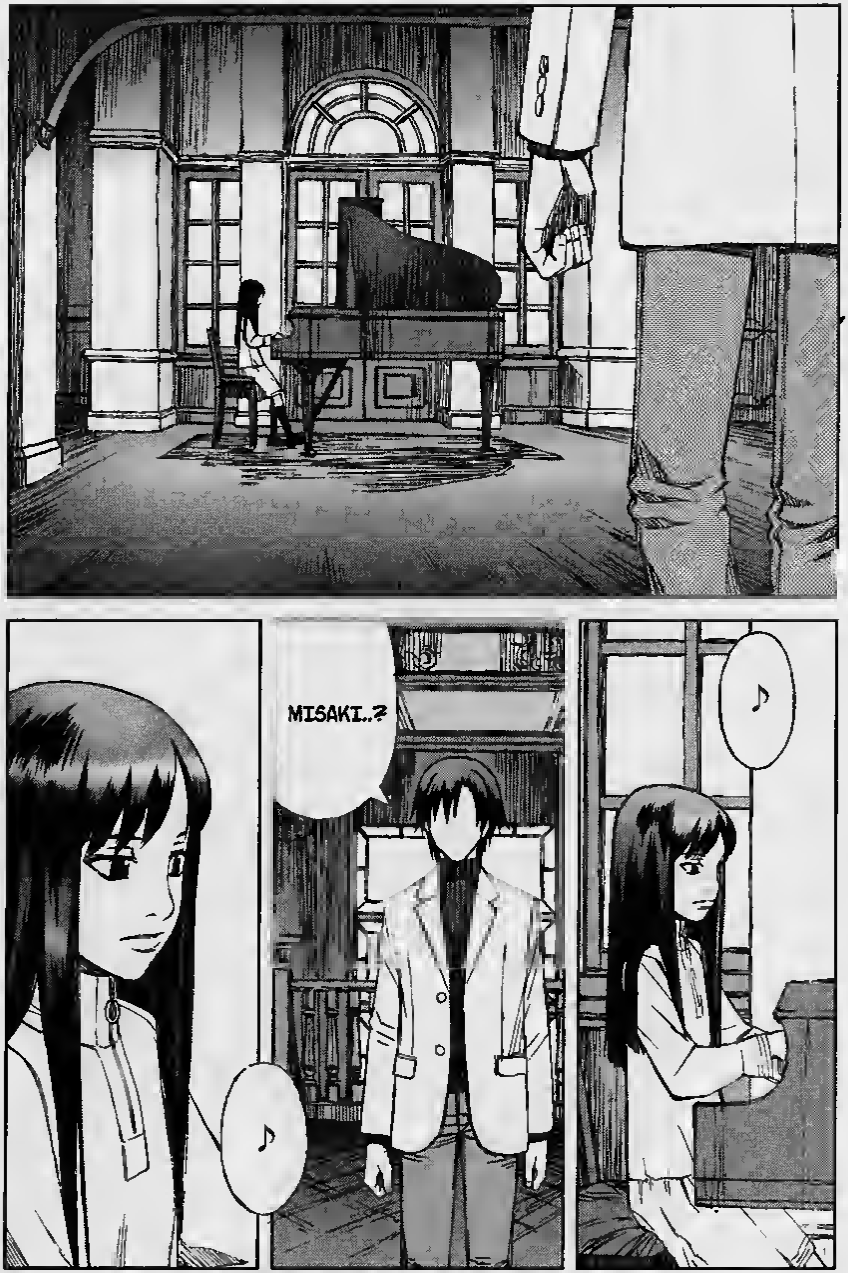
I WOULD BE HAPPY TO TAKE YOUR LUGGAGE.
I'VE ALREADY BEEN INFORMED OF THE SITUATION, SIR.
A BUTLER ..?
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, MASTER KUROSE.
THE YOUNG MISS IS UPSTAIRS.

♪
TOO
A PIANO..?
♪
♪







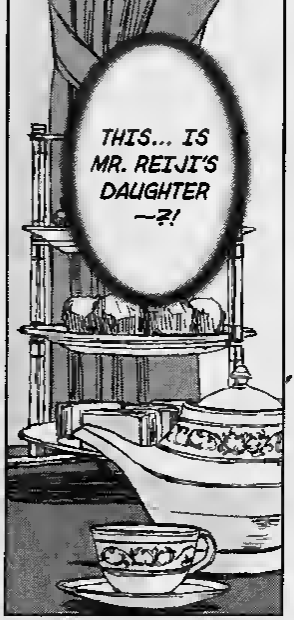

MISAKI..?
♪
♪

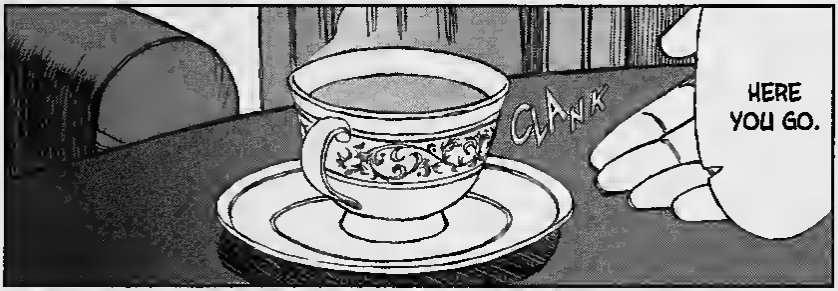
♪
DAN~
JESSICA ASKED ME TO FILL IN FOR HER FOR A WHILE...
.....
♪
WHY DO I GET THE FEELING SHE STARTED PLAYING MUCH LOUDER AND MORE SHARPLY AFTER I TALKED TO HER..?
NO, THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE, RIGHT..?
.....? HAS SHE NOT NOTICED ME YET..?
♪
UM...
FRIEND

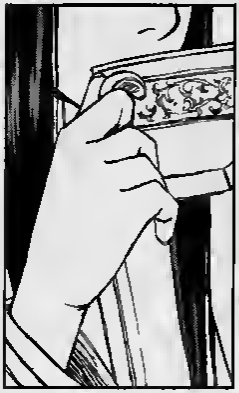
I'M...
THIRSTY.
...
WELL?
I SAID...
.....!!

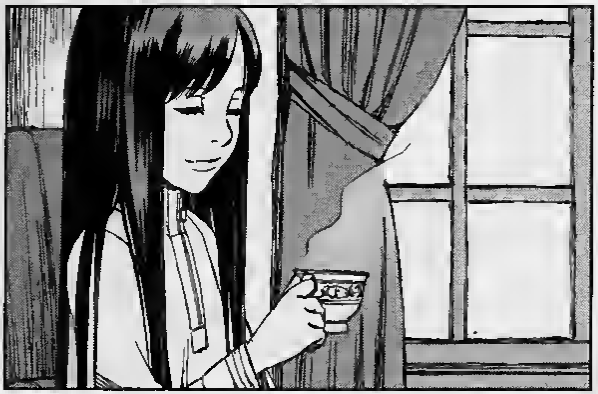
I'M THIRSTY.
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?
YOU CAN GO AND PREPARE SOMETHING FOR ME NOW.
—?!
EH—?!
EH...

WHY DO I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS..?


THIS... IS MR. REIJI'S DAUGHTER —?!

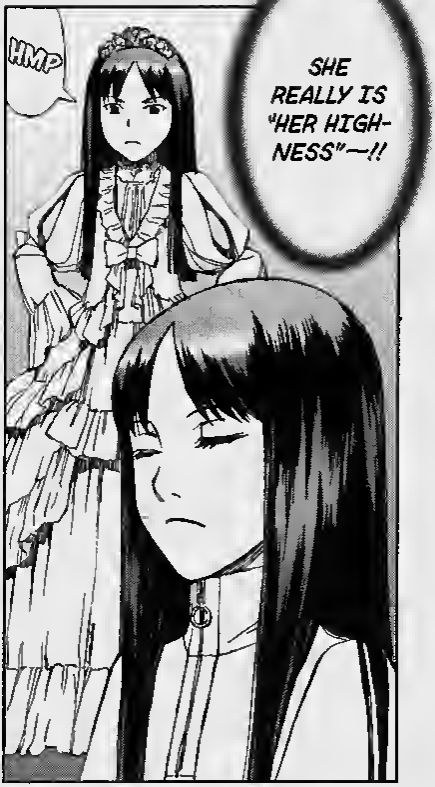

CLANK
HERE YOU GO.





I... I DON'T UNDER-STAND... WEREN'T YOU THIRSTY?
YOU'RE VERY SLOW AREN'T YOU?
YOU CAN DISPOSE OF THE REST.
EH?
CLANK
I EXPECT MY MILK TEA TO BE MUCH SWEETER THAN THIS OR I WON'T DRINK IT.
DO YOU STILL NOT UNDER-STAND?
HMP...
SHE... SHE REALLY IS...
.....!!
GET RID OF IT.
THAT CUP OF MILK TEA YOU POURED FOR ME IS HARDLY PALATABLE.

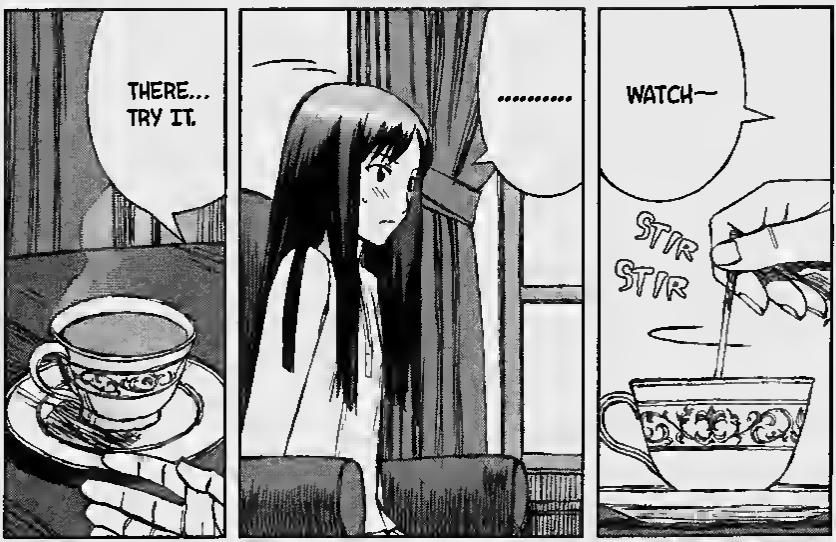
SHOOT... AT THIS RATE, SHE'LL KEEP SETTING THE PACE...


HMP
SHE REALLY IS "HER HIGH-NESS"—!!

THERE'S A LITTLE SOMETHING I WANTED TO SHOW YOU. WILL YOU WATCH?
UM, MISAKI...

BUT THE TRUTH IS, I PLACED A MAGIC SPELL ON IT A FEW MOMENTS AGO.
THIS SPOON... IT'S NOT SPECIAL IN ANY WAY AND IT LOOKS LIKE JUST AN AVERAGE SPOON, RIGHT?

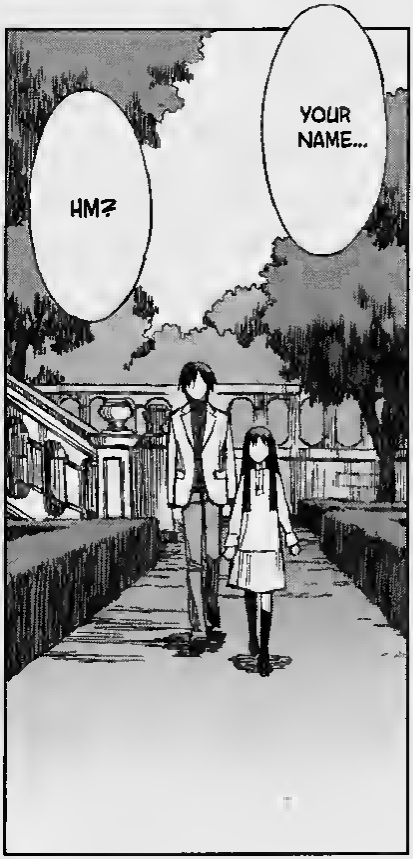
TING
THERE... DID YOU HEAR THAT?
BECAUSE THIS IS A MAGIC SPOON, IT MADE A SLIGHTLY HIGHER PITCH SOUND THAN OTHER SPOONS.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
A MAGIC SPOON? HOW RIDICULOUS.
OH, IS IT~?
WITH JUST A SINGLE STIR WITH THIS MAGIC SPOON, THIS CUP OF MILK TEA WILL HAVE THE EXACT SWEETNESS THAT YOU LIKE.
DON'T BE ABSURD, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
BUT IT IS POSSIBLE.


THERE... TRY IT.
.....
WATCH~
STIR STIR

HOW IS IT?
.....!!
STARE

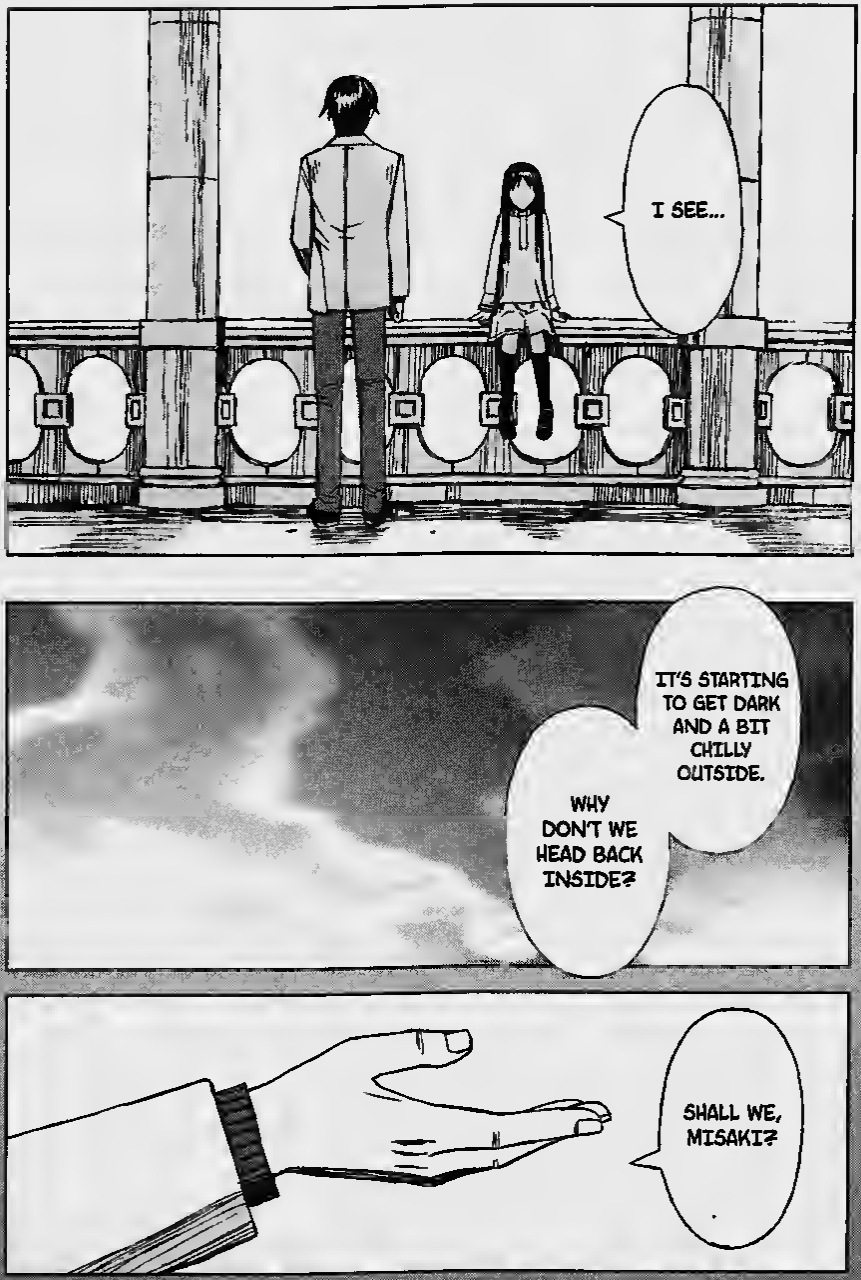
...HOW DID YOU DO THAT?
.....
OH, STOP IT~!
TURN
IT'S MAGIC.
I ONCE MET A MAGICIAN AND SHE TAUGHT ME HOW TO DO MAGIC.
I'M TELLING YOU THE TRUTH.
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS MAGIC!!

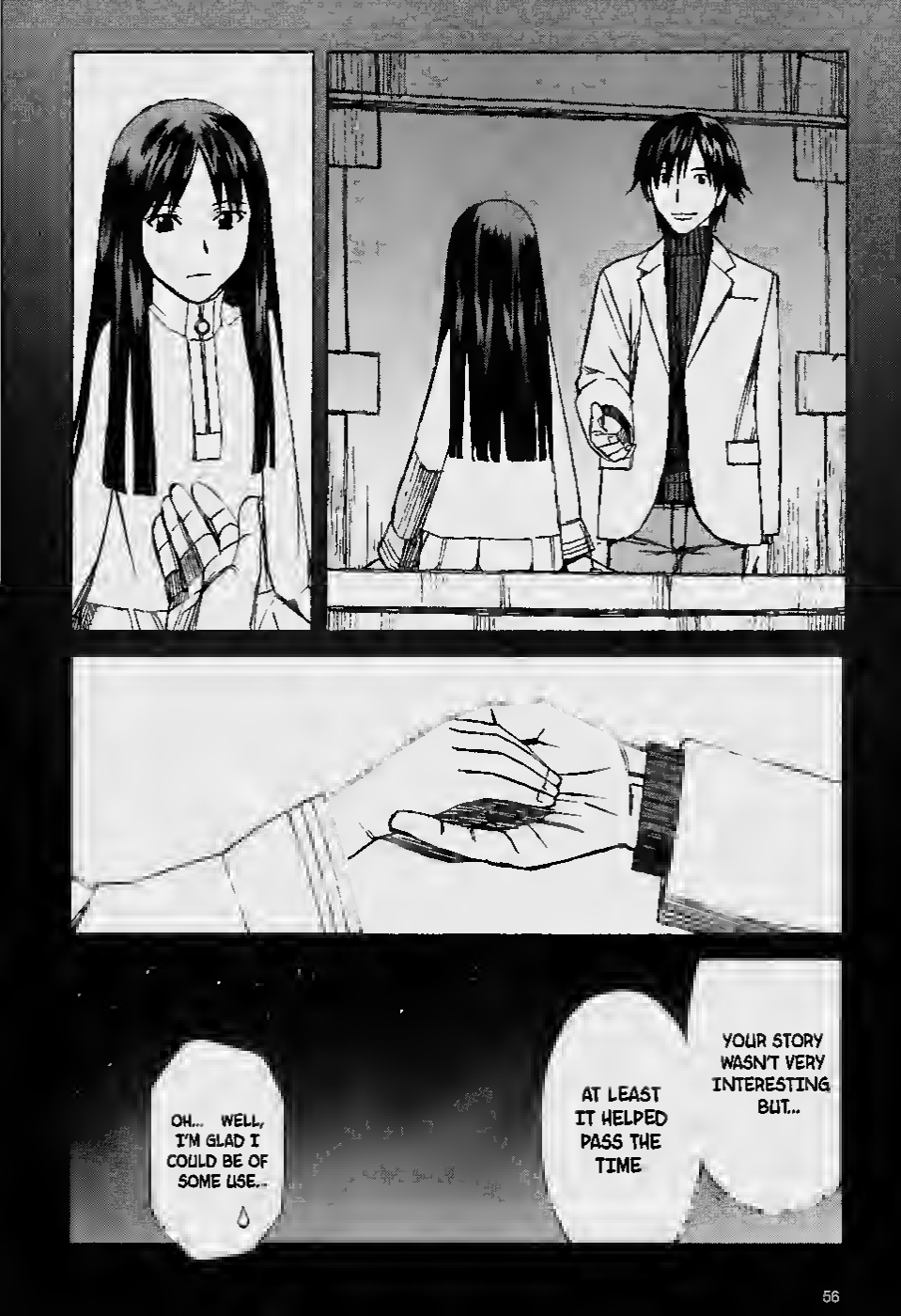
YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME YOUR NAME YET.

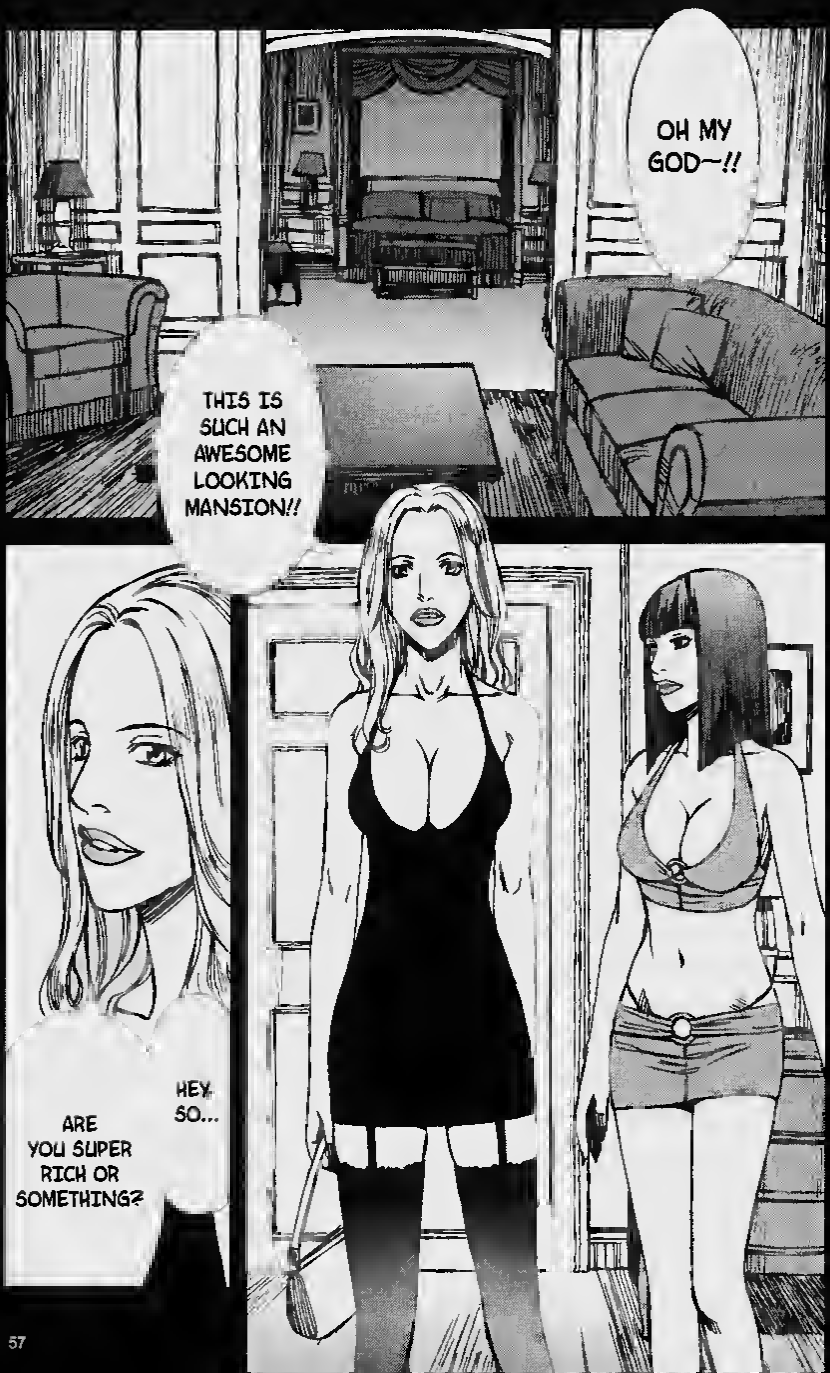

HM?
YOUR NAME...

KUROE...
MY NAME IS KUROE KUROSE.
AH... YOU'RE RIGHT.
THAT'S A STRANGE NAME... FOR A MAN, THAT NAME SOUNDS A BIT TOO FEMININE.
DO YOU THINK SO AS WELL..?
BUT STILL... YOU CAN SAY THAT IT'S BECAUSE OF THIS NAME THAT I'M WHO I AM TODAY.
?

I CAN'T IMAGINE NORMAL PARENTS GIVING THEIR CHILDREN A NAME LIKE THAT.
YOU MUST HAVE HAD STRANGE PARENTS.
ALTHOUGH THERE'S NO WAY I'D BE ABLE TO FIND OUT FOR SURE NOW...
YOU MAY BE RIGHT...
WHY IS THAT?
OH... UM, IT'S NOTHING.
WHAT AM I THINKING... WHAT AM I DOING TELLING A CHILD SOMETHING LIKE THAT..?
THEY'RE IN A FAR AWAY PLACE RIGHT NOW...
SO YOU MIGHT SAY I DON'T HAVE THE CHANCE TO MEET WITH THEM TO ASK...
.....!!


I SEE...
IT'S STARTING TO GET DARK AND A BIT CHILLY OUTSIDE.
WHY DON'T WE HEAD BACK INSIDE?
SHALL WE, MISAKI?


YOUR STORY WASN'T VERY INTERESTING BUT...
AT LEAST IT HELPED PASS THE TIME
OH... WELL, I'M GLAD I COULD BE OF SOME USE..


OH MY GOD~!!
THIS IS SUCH AN AWESOME LOOKING MANSION!!
HEY, SO...
ARE YOU SUPER RICH OR SOMETHING?

WELL...
WHO KNOWS~?
YOU'VE GOT TO BE RIGHT?

AND I BET YOU MUST DO SOMETHING SHADY FOR A LIVING.
SLIP
I'M JUST A USED CAR SALESMAN.
OH, REALLY—
LEAN
I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF USED CARS YOU SELL.
YOU DON'T MIND IF I FRESHEN UP IN THE BATHROOM DO YOU?

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE MY LAST HIGH CLASS CUSTOMER...

WHAT WAS THE WORD... CANINE TOOTH?
YOU KNOW, THE SHARP TEETH RIGHT HERE...
HM?
YOU KNOW... YOUR TEETH ARE PRETTY INCREDIBLE.
YOURS ALMOST FEEL LIKE A VAMPIRE'S...
KYAAAAAAAA!!
MARY..?

EH..?
I COMPLETELY FORGOT...
AH...
AAA... AAAH!!
SHRIEK ..!
AA..!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
AH..!!

A DEAD BODY..!!
THERE... THERE'S A BODY!!
IN THE BATHTUB OVER THERE..!!
THERE'S A DEAD BODY—!!
AH, THAT... MY BAD.

I COMPLETELY FORGOT TO CLEAN UP
AFTER BREAKFAST.

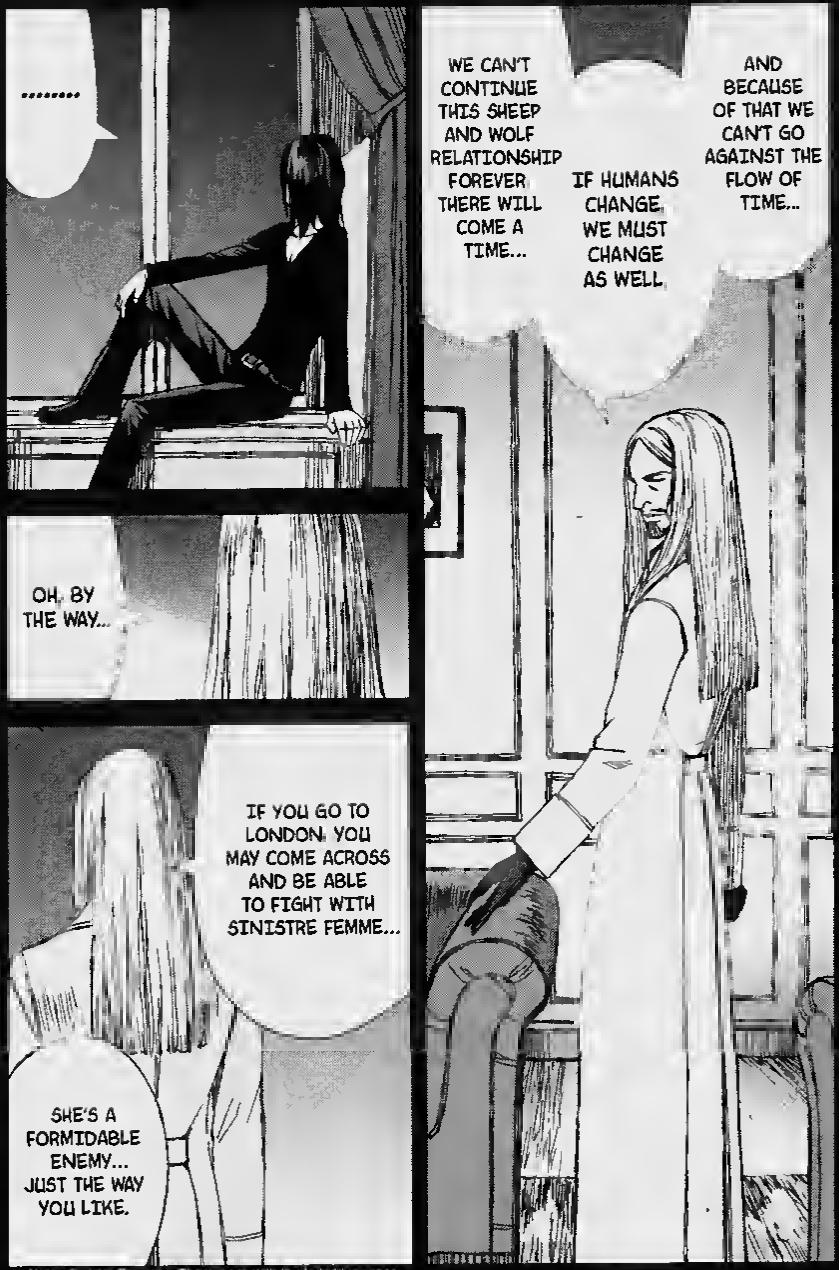
YOU'VE BEEN KILLING TOO MUCH LATELY...
TAP
KAIRDOLF

LANCE...
IT'S NOTHING YOU HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT.
THEY'RE THE KIND OF WOMEN THAT NO ONE CARES ABOUT EVEN IF A COUPLE OF THEM GO MISSING...

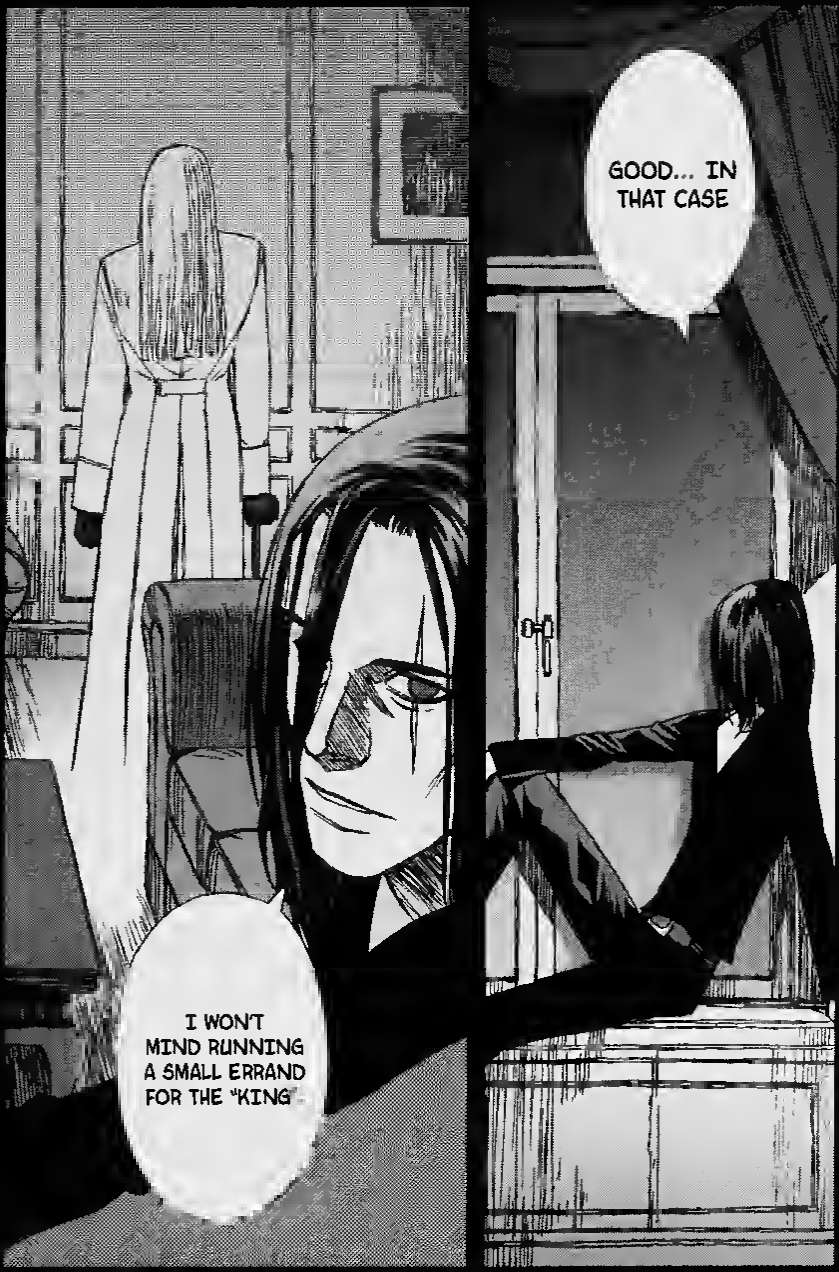
I ONLY CAME TODAY AS AN OLD FRIEND.
PARDON ME, MISS.
SO WHAT BUSINESS DOES THE HEAD OF EINSEIGRAD SPARUDA HAVE WITH ME?
Note: Einseigrad Sparuda = The Crimson Sword
WELL, HOW NICE OF YOU...

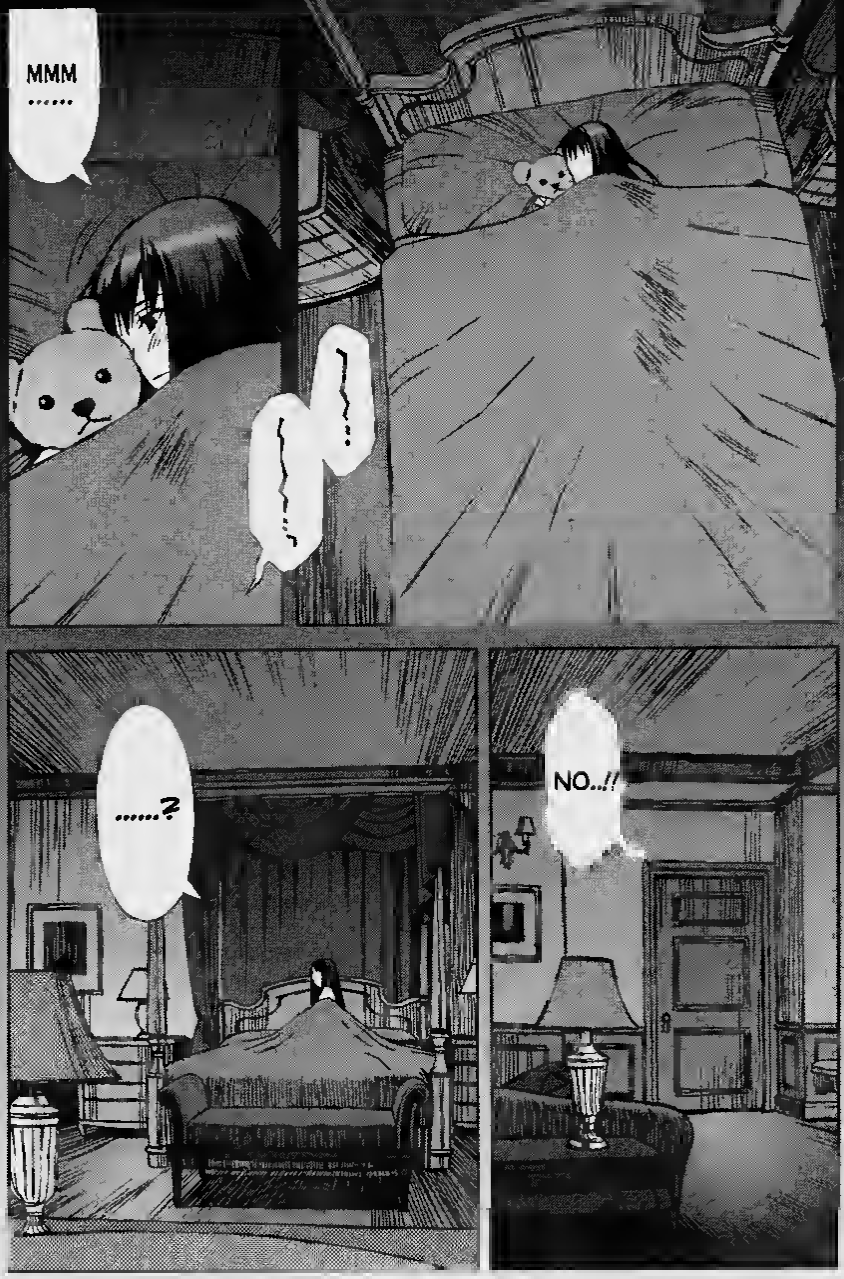
KAIRDOLF
WON'T YOU CONSIDER COMING BACK..?
EVEN IF YOU HAVE SOMEONE TO FILL IN AS A REPLACE-MENT KING, DO YOU REALLY THINK I'D BE ABLE TO SWEAR MY LOYAL TO HIM?
SPARUDA CAME TO AN END ONCE HE WAS NO LONGER WITH US...
IS ADIVUARAT KURAI. HE ALONE AND NO ONE ELSE.
THE ONLY PERSON I KNEEL FOR AND ADDRESS AS "KING"...
LANCE... YOU KNOW ALREADY, DON'T YOU?
.....

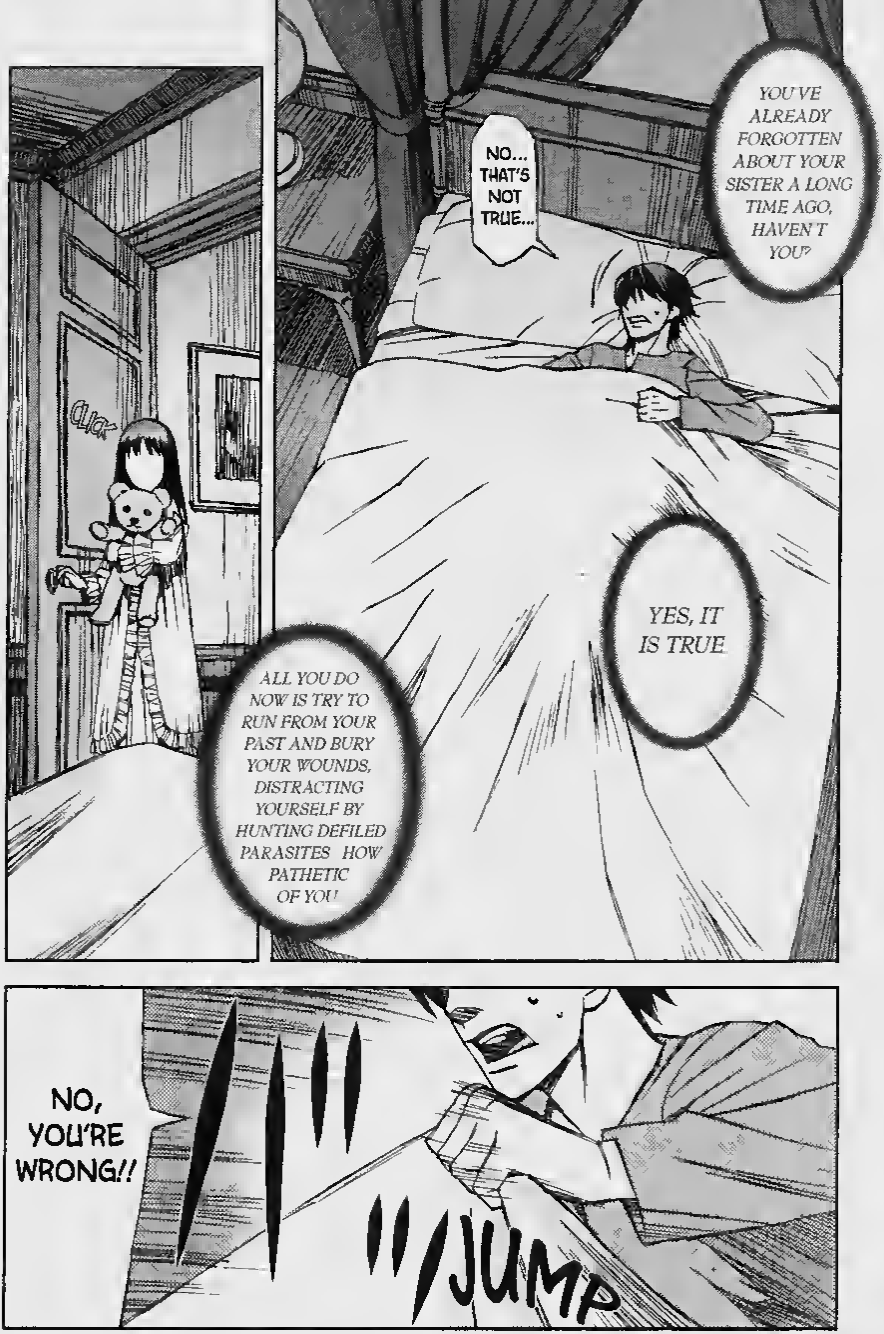
IT'S PATHETIC.
WHAT? SO YOU PLAN ON CONTINUING ON LIKE THIS? IS THIS HOW YOU PLAN ON TAKING REVENGE FOR THE WAY YOU WERE WOUNDED?
PATHETIC... YOU SAY?
YOU STILL DON'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND... WHETHER YOU ACCEPT IT OR NOT, WE'RE DESCENDED BEINGS...
YOU TRY TO BLEND IN AMONGST HUMANS AND TRY TO SMOOTH THINGS OVER WITH THEM... FOR WHAT? TO CAUSE LESS FRICTION? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH
I DON'T KNOW WHEN IT HAPPENED, BUT YOU SPARUDA VAMPIRES HAVE SURE BECOME ARROGANT LATELY


.....
WE CAN'T CONTINUE THIS SHEEP AND WOLF RELATIONSHIP FOREVER THERE WILL COME A TIME...
IF HUMANS CHANGE, WE MUST CHANGE AS WELL
AND BECAUSE OF THAT WE CAN'T GO AGAINST THE FLOW OF TIME...
OH, BY THE WAY...
IF YOU GO TO LONDON, YOU MAY COME ACROSS AND BE ABLE TO FIGHT WITH SINISTRE FEMME...
SHE'S A FORMIDABLE ENEMY... JUST THE WAY YOU LIKE.

Note : Sinistre Femme - The woman with the forbidden name


GOOD... IN THAT CASE
I WON'T MIND RUNNING A SMALL ERRAND FOR THE "KING"


MMM
.....
.....?
NO..!!

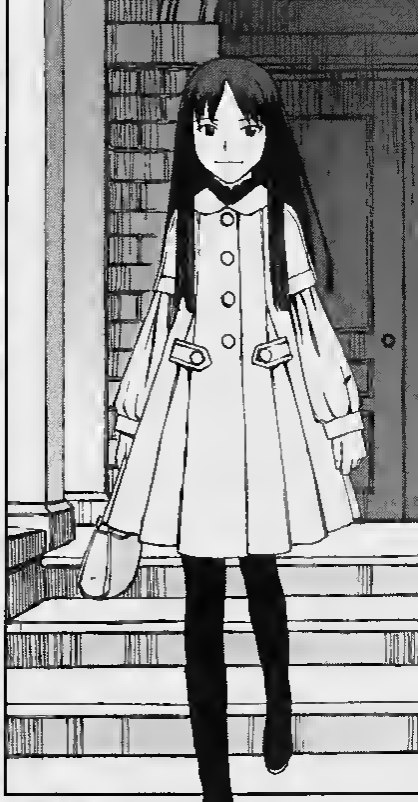

YOU'VE ALREADY FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOUR SISTER A LONG TIME AGO, HAVEN'T YOU?
NO... THAT'S NOT TRUE...
YES, IT IS TRUE
ALL YOU DO NOW IS TRY TO RUN FROM YOUR PAST AND BURY YOUR WOUNDS, DISTRACTING YOURSELF BY HUNTING DEFILED PARASITES HOW PATHETIC OF YOU!
CLICK
NO, YOU'RE WRONG!!
JUMP

AH...
UUU...
HAAA
HAAA
HAAA
!!!
.....
I SEE YOU'RE UP RATHER EARLY...
MISAKI ..?!

YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
IT DIDN'T SEEM LIKE THERE WAS ANYONE ELSE HERE LAST NIGHT... IS IT ALWAYS LIKE THIS?
BY THE WAY...
BUT THERE'S ALMOST ALWAYS SOMEONE STAYING IN THE GUEST ROOM.
EVERYONE THAT WORKS HERE COMMUTES AND THEY GO HOME AT THE END OF EACH DAY.
WELL, I MEAN... YOU LIVE HERE IN THIS LARGE MANSION BY YOURSELF, SO DON'T YOU GET LONELY..?
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
THAT SOUNDS LIKE IT'S A BIT LONELY HERE...
I SEE...

RE... REALLY?
WHENEVER MY FATHER IS AWAY, EITHER JESSIE OR SOMEBODY ELSE ALMOST ALWAYS STOPS BY AND STAYS OVER.
EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, I DO END UP BEING ALONE BUT IT'S NEVER BOTHERED ME BEFORE.
NO, NOT REALLY.
BY THE WAY... ARE THOSE THE ONLY CLOTHES YOU BROUGHT WITH YOU?
WELL... SEEING HOW STRONG WILLED SHE IS, I GUESS IT'S POSSIBLE SHE WOULDN'T FEEL LONELY...
OH—?
UM, IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH THESE CLOTHES..?
IT... IT IS...
HUH?
WE'RE GOING OUT...
RUSTLE
PLEASE GO AND FETCH THE CAR.

RANGE ROVER



!!
STARE

STOP

AFTER YOU, MISS.
CLASP
CLICK
WHERE TO, MISS?
TO THE TAILOR'S.
TAILOR?
AND SO...

GOOD AFTERNOON, EDDY.
WELL, NOW— IF IT ISN'T MINATO'S LITTLE GIRL~ IT'S BEEN A WHILE MISS.
I SEE YOU'RE BEING ESCORTED BY A HANDSOME YOUNG MAN TODAY.
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE YOUNG LADY WHO'S USUALLY WITH YOU?
JESSIE IS OFF TODAY.
HE'S BOTH MY CHAUFFEUR AND BODY GUARD.

WHAT?!
I STOPPED BY TODAY TO HAVE YOU TAILOR A SUIT FOR HIM.
REGARDLESS OF HOW HE MAY LOOK, HE'S A GREAT TAILOR SO THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
THAT'S RIGHT YOUNG MAN, MY HANDIWORK ISN'T BAD AT ALL IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF.
WAIT... BUT, I DON'T NEED A SUIT...
IT'S ALL RIGHT. DON'T WORRY ABOUT MONEY, I'LL BE PAYING FOR IT.
THAT'S OKAY. I'LL CHOOSE FOR YOU KUROE.
WELL... UM, I'VE NEVER HAD A SUIT FITTED FOR ME BEFORE SO...
LET'S SEE NOW. WHAT MATERIAL WOULD YOU LIKE FOR ME TO USE?

AAA... IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S ALREADY OUT OF MY HANDS...
IN THAT CASE, WILL THIS DO?
YES... HE'S A BIT GLOOMY AND HE'S RATHER PLAIN, SO I THINK SOMETHING ELEGANT AND REFINING WOULD BE NICE.
LET ME KNOW ONCE YOU'RE DONE GETTING MEASURED.
I'LL BE WAITING DOWNSTAIRS.
NO, OF COURSE I CAN HAVE IT READY BY NEXT WEEK, BECAUSE I'M ONE OF THE BEST AFTER ALL.
DID YOU NEED MORE TIME?
NOW THEN... PLEASE HAVE IT READY BY NEXT WEEK.
NEXT WEEK? ISN'T THAT A BIT RUSHED?
IT'S FINE. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I'M SORRY I CAN'T GET YOU ANYTHING IN THE MEANWHILE. MY WIFE IS OUT AT THE MOMENT.

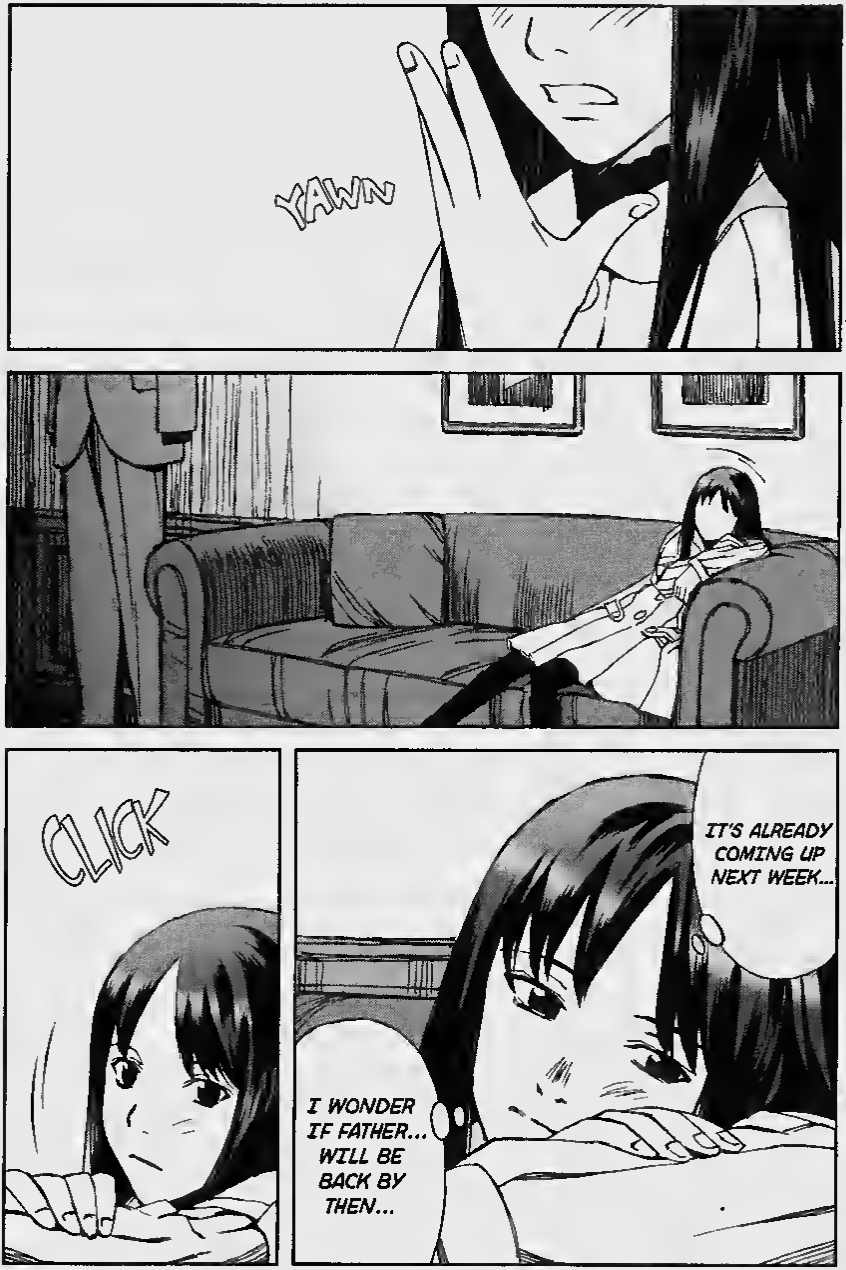
I ONLY FIRST MET HER THE OTHER DAY.
NO... UM, ACTUALLY ...
HAVE YOU KNOWN THE YOUNG LADY FOR VERY LONG?
IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S SPIRITED AS USUAL.
DO YOU NORMALLY HANDLE MR. REIJI'S CLOTHES AS WELL, MR. EDDY?
MR. REIJI HAS BEEN LOOKING OUT FOR ME FOR A WHILE NOW SO...
ALTHOUGH I'D SAY IT'S BEEN ALMOST 20 YEARS NOW...
THAT'S RIGHT. AND NOT ONLY HIS USUAL ATTIRE, I MADE SOME OF HIS PERFORMANCE COSTUMES AS WELL.
AH... SO IT'S BECAUSE OF REIJI.

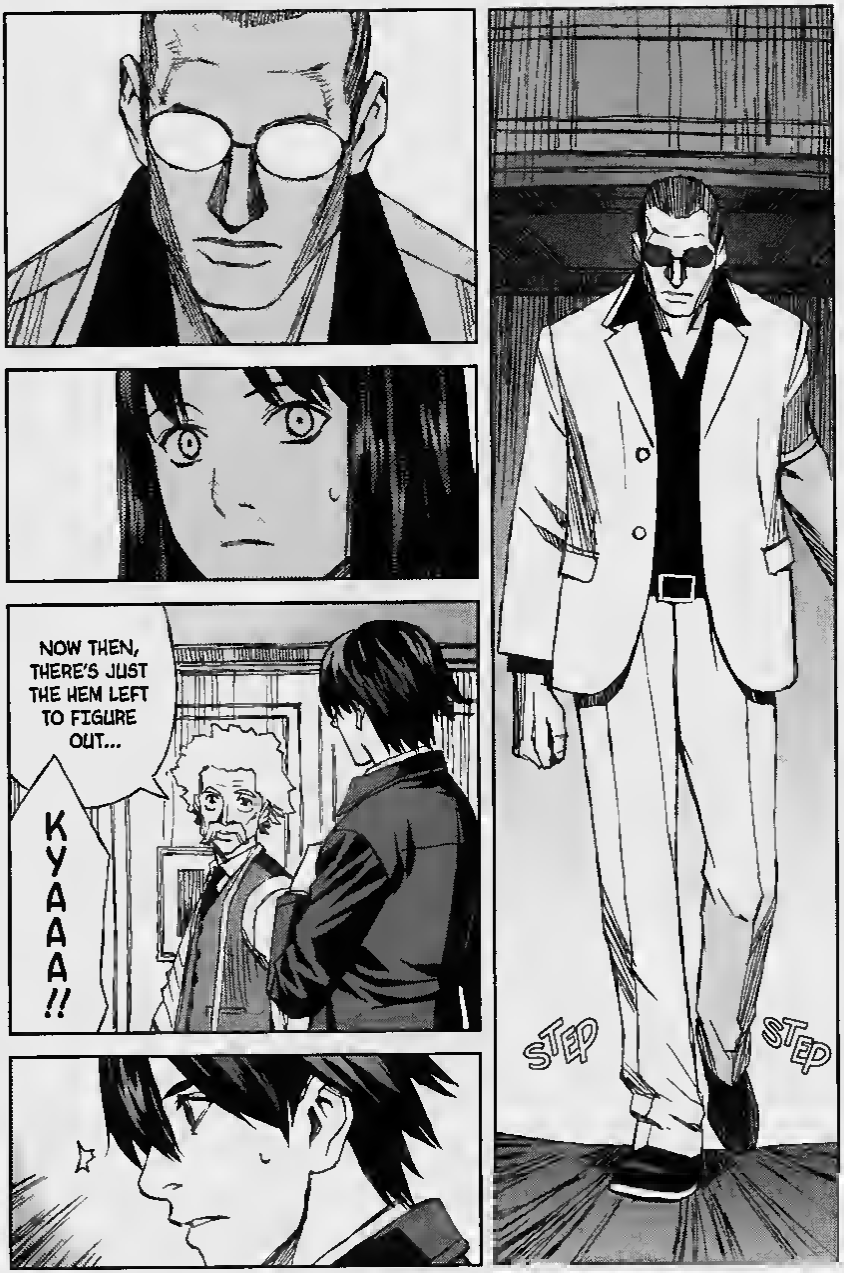
IN THAT CASE, THAT TIRED FEEL ABOUT YOU COULDN'T HAVE BEEN BECAUSE OF MISAKI.
I SEE... SO YOU'VE ONLY RECENTLY MET THE YOUNG LADY....
I DON'T UNDER-STAND... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU'VE HAD A CLOUDED FACE EVER SINCE YOU WALKED INTO THIS STORE.
IT'S AS IF YOU'VE LOST ALL CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF AND YOU'RE LOST, NOT KNOWING WHERE TO GO...

EVEN THE EXPRESSION A PERSON HAS WHEN LOOKING AT THEMSELVES IN THE MIRROR SAYS A LOT.
THE FEELING I'M GETTING FROM YOU RIGHT NOW IS THAT SOMEHOW, YOU'RE REFUSING TO FACE YOURSELF.
YOU CAN LEARN A LOT ABOUT THAT PERSON AND WHAT HE'S THINKING.
WHEN YOU'VE WORKED LONG ENOUGH IN THIS PROFESSION, JUST BY TAKING SOMEONE'S MEASUREMENTS
YOU CAN TELL A LOT ABOUT A PERSON BY THEIR MOOD, APPEARANCE, AND HOW THEY CARRY THEMSELVES.
.....

I SEE... .....
THEY'LL FEEL THAT THE CLOTHES THAT PERSON TAILORS FOR THEM WILL SUIT THEM PERFECTLY.
IF YOU ACT LIKE YOU KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT A CUSTOMER
DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT WHAT I SAID. IT'S MERELY A TRICK I USE.
EH..?
.....
I CAN'T HELP FEELING... THAT EVERYTHING YOU SAID IS TRUE.
BUT...

VROOM
WHAT'S UP?
CLICK
BESIDES HIM THERE'S JUST AN OLD MAN THAT OWNS THAT STORE.
THERE'S A GUY WATCHING OVER HER RIGHT NOW, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S JUST A HUMAN. HE SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM.
NO SWEAT.
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS NAB ONE LITTLE KID.
ZOOM
ALRIGHT.
PARK US IN THE BACK SO I CAN TAKE CARE OF THIS WITHOUT ATTRACTING ANY ATTENTION.
LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.


YAWN
CLICK
IT'S ALREADY COMING UP NEXT WEEK...
I WONDER IF FATHER... WILL BE BACK BY THEN...


NOW THEN, THERE'S JUST THE HEM LEFT TO FIGURE OUT...
KYAAA!!
STEP
STEP

AH..!!
LET GO OF ME..!!
THE YOUNG LADY..?!

THUNK!!
?!

CRACK

MISAKI
.....!!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? CAN YOU STAND?
VROOM
GO INSIDE.
TURN

RENFIELDS...

WHO'S YOUR BLOOD PARENT?

YOU'VE ONLY TRAINED IN MARTIAL ARTS FOR A FEW YEARS. HOW WILL THAT HELP YOU?
I'LL SHOW YOU, MY LADY...
HOW MUCH MORE USEFUL AND PRACTICAL IT IS COMPARED TO YOUR POWER.
WHOOSH
DASH

GASP
THUD

ZING
CRACK

.....!!
FLOP

I ADVISE YOU TO GIVE UP... YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO DEFEAT ME.
YOU CAN EITHER TELL ME YOUR BLOOD PARENT'S NAME AND LEAVE QUIETLY...
OR YOU CAN CONTINUE THIS POINT-LESS FIGHT AND DIE.
THOSE ARE YOUR ONLY CHOICES.

COME INSIDE, QUICKLY!
AH... ALRIGHT.
MISS!!
!!
KUROE !!

SMACK
CRASH

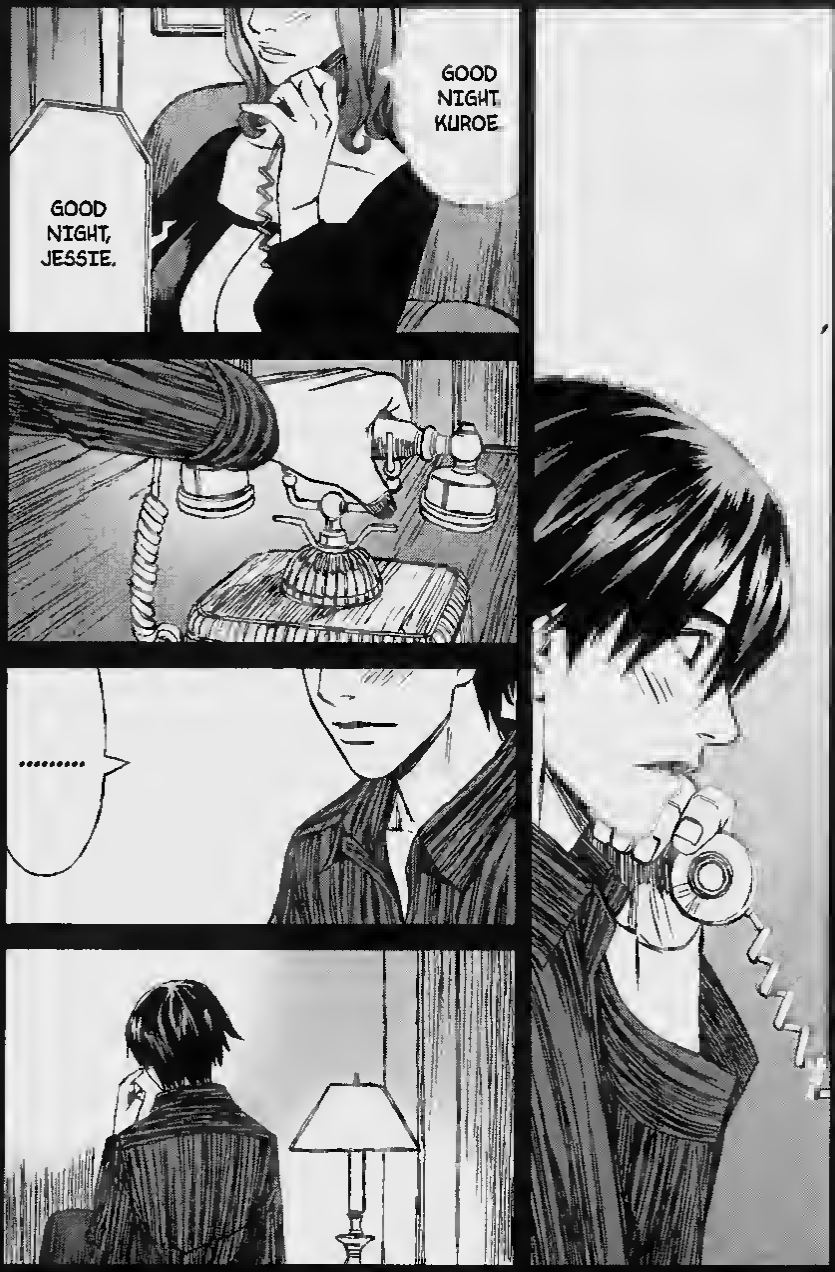
GET IN!!
!!
VROOM
AH..!!
STOP ..!!
SCREECH
GRAB

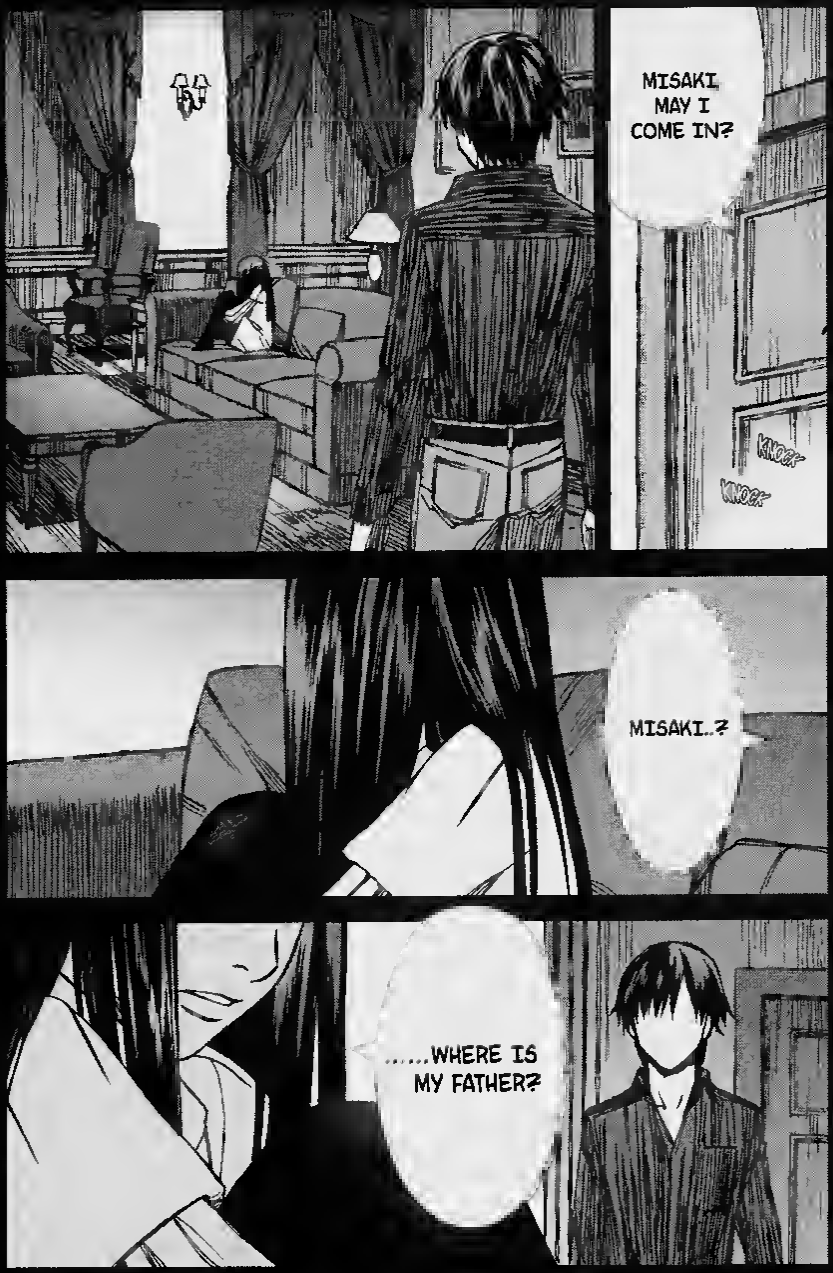
.....
BANG!
SCREECH
.....

IS THAT RIGHT RENFIELDS ...
I DIDN'T THINK THERE WERE ANY VAMPIRES LEFT IN THAT AREA THAT WOULD TRY TO GO AFTER MR. REIJI AGAIN...
THAT'S OKAY WITH MISAKI THERE TO WATCH OVER. THERE'S NOT MUCH ELSE YOU COULD HAVE DONE
NO. I'M SORRY THEY GOT AWAY...
IN ANY CASE YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO FIND OUT WHO THEIR BLOOD PARENT IS RIGHT?
THANKS AGAIN.
I UNDERSTAND THEN. I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN FIND OUT

STILL, SHE'S A VERY STRONG CHILD SO I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
SHE WASN'T HURT BUT I THINK SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A BIT SHOCKED ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.
AND SO, HOW IS MISAKI DOING?
REALLY... IS THAT SO?
YES.
SHE MAY APPEAR TO BE A VERY STRONG WILLED GIRL BUT IT'S ALL MERELY AN ACT THAT SHE'S DESPERATELY TRYING TO KEEP FROM CRUMBLING. AND THE WAY SHE SOMETIMES ACTS SELF-CENTERED IS JUST ANOTHER WAY OF HOW SHE EXPRESSES HER LONELINESS.
NO CHILD IS THAT STRONG.
YOU CAN BE SO SLOW SOME TIMES KUROE ...
EH?

.....
THERE MAY BE A LOT OF PEOPLE WORKING THERE.
BUT THE ONLY FAMILY SHE REALLY HAS IS HER FATHER.
KUROE...
YES?
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF MISAKI.
OF COURSE.
I DON'T THINK ANY VAMPIRES WILL BE ABLE TO ENTER THAT MANSION. BUT JUST IN CASE, DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.
I'LL CONTACT YOU ONCE I FIND OUT SOMETHING.
I'M GLAD I LEFT HER IN YOUR CARE.


GOOD NIGHT, JESSIE.
GOOD NIGHT, KUROE.
.....


MISAKI, MAY I COME IN?
KNOCK
KNOCK
MISAKI..?
.....WHERE IS MY FATHER?

MR. REIJI IS STILL...
UM... ABOUT THAT...
.....!!
MY FATHER... ISN'T COMING HOME?
EVEN AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO ME TODAY...
..... WHY?

THERE MAY BE A LOT OF PEOPLE WORKING THERE. BUT THE ONLY FAMILY SHE REALLY HAS IS HER FATHER.
EVEN AFTER GOING THROUGH... SOMETHING AS SCARY AS THAT
MY FATHER STILL ISN'T WORRIED ABOUT ME?
SHE ONLY HAS HER FATHER TO LEAN ON...

THERE'S NO WAY SHE WOULDN'T FEEL LONELY
AFTER ALL, SHE'S STILL JUST A CHILD
ALWAYS BEING ALONE IN THIS LARGE MANSION
HOW COULD SHE POSSIBLY FEEL SECURE?
MY FATHER...
I... I DON'T MEAN ANYTHING TO HIM...
HE ALWAYS LEAVES ME BEHIND...

MR. REIJI CARES A GREAT DEAL ABOUT YOU.
THA... THAT'S NOT TRUE.
THEN WHY DOESN'T HE COME HOME?!
HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT ME!!
WHY?!
THAT... THAT'S BECAUSE...
BECAUSE...

I'M HERE, AND I'M WAY STRONGER AND MUCH MORE RELIABLE THAN HE IS.
BUT THERE IS... RIGHT HERE IN FRONT OF YOU.
NO ONE IS STRONGER THAN MY FATHER.
WHA... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
DIDN'T I DEFEAT THOSE BAD MEN WHO TRIED TO KIDNAP YOU IN JUST AN INSTANT?

BECAUSE AFTER ALL, HE'S THE STRONGEST PERSON IN THE WORLD.
IT'S TRUE THAT YOU'RE A BIT STRONGER THAN I THOUGHT YOU WERE
BUT IT'S NOT POSSIBLE FOR ANYONE TO BE STRONGER THAN MY FATHER.
THAT'S...
I'M THE STRONGEST PERSON IN THE WORLD.
NO, NO~
BECAUSE HE KNOWS THAT THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE MAN IS WATCHING OVER YOU.
THAT'S WHY MR. REIJI CAN RELAX AND NOT BE WORRIED...
MY FATHER IS THE STRONGEST!!
YOU'RE... YOU'RE WRONG//

WELL, UNTIL A MINUTE AGO YOU WERE SO MAD AT MR. REIJI
BUT IN THE END, YOU'RE ON HIS SIDE AFTER ALL.
WHA... WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!
CHUCKLE
.....!!
THA...
THAT'S BECAUSE ...

FROM NOW ON...
....OH, FORGET IT.
.....
I'LL BE YOUR KNIGHT AND YOURS ALONE.
WHENEVER YOU FIND YOURSELF IN TROUBLE...
NO MATTER WHEN OR WHERE... I'LL COME TO YOUR AID.

.....
I'LL BE THE BEST KNIGHT IN THE WORLD
I'LL OBEY ANY ORDER YOU GIVE AND FACE ANY CHALLENGE YOU HAVE FOR ME.
I SWEAR MY LOYALTY AND ALLEGIANCE TO YOU
WILL YOU REALLY OBEY ANY ORDER?
YES.
WELL THEN...
"SIT!"
.....
WAIT, UM... THAT'S A BIT...

SILENCE SUITS IT WELL.
FOR A LONDON NIGHT SHROUDED IN MIST...
WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?

KUROE.
THE MAN WHO INTERFERED WHEN WE TRIED TO GET THE GIRL...
I'M CERTAIN THAT'S WHAT SHE CALLED HIM, SIR.
THE MAGICIAN KUROE, WAS IT..?
IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN THE TASK WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO MUCH FOR THE TWO OF YOU TO HANDLE...

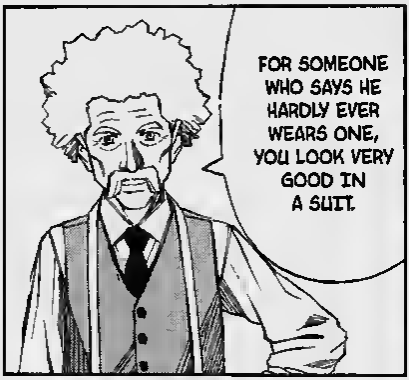
AND IF IT WAS KUROE, THEN CERTAINLY NO ONE WILL BLAME YOU FOR RUNNING AWAY.
SHLAK

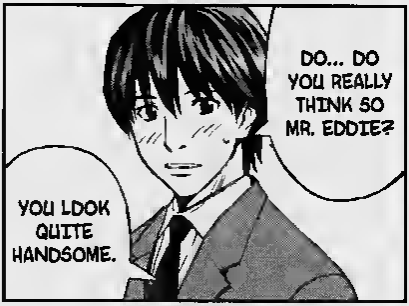
.....!!
SLIDE
THUD
IF IT REALLY WAS THE REAL KUROE
THAT IS...

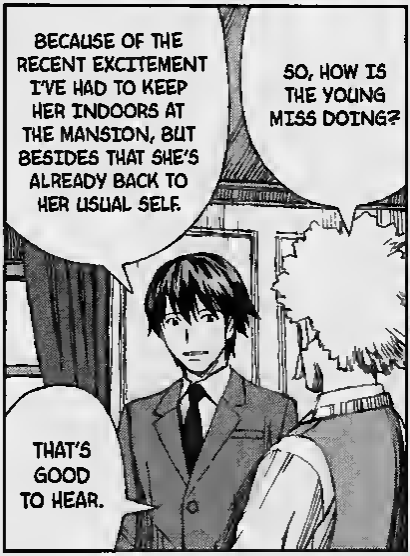
HONESTLY WHAT WAS I THINKING..?
TO THINK THAT I ACTUALLY EXPECTED MERE RENFIELDS TO BE OF ANY USE

トントゥ
AND WHAT WOULD THIS BE?
.....
THIS MUCH?
IT'S THE LIST OF VAMPIRES YOU REQUESTED A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO.

YES, YES, I KNOW.
NOW, NOW, THAT WASN'T VERY NICE, JESSIE~
AFTER ALL, OUR DIVISION IS ALWAYS SHORT-HANDED LIKE I SAID BEFORE AND...
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU MADE ME WAIT SEVERAL DAYS JUST FOR A PILE OF UNORGANIZED REPORTS.
AT THE VERY LEAST, I WAS EXPECTING, YOU TO COMPILE THEM INTO SOME KIND OF DIGITAL FILE.
OH? WILL YOU NOT BE HELPING ME?
ALL RIGHT THEN, ENJOY~
BUT IF YOU'RE BUSY.... I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
I SEE... AND HERE I WAS HOPING TO DO SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU MY APPRECIATION...
SIGH~
REGARDLESS OF HOW THINGS MAY APPEAR, I'M ACTUALLY QUITE A BUSY MAN.
.....


FOR SOMEONE WHO SAYS HE HARDLY EVER WEARS ONE, YOU LOOK VERY GOOD IN A SUIT.


DO... DO YOU REALLY THINK SO MR. EDDIE?
YOU LOOK QUITE HANDSOME.


SO, HOW IS THE YOUNG MISS DOING?
BECAUSE OF THE RECENT EXCITEMENT I'VE HAD TO KEEP HER INDOORS AT THE MANSION, BUT BESIDES THAT SHE'S ALREADY BACK TO HER USUAL SELF.
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.

EH?
SO, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO? WEAR IT HOME LIKE THAT?
.....
YES... I THINK I WILL.
VROOM
A SUIT?

SHE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT NEXT WEEK AND IT SOUNDED LIKE SHE WANTED IT MADE IN A HURRY... IS SOMETHING HAPPENING NEXT WEEK?
YES... SHE SUDDENLY WANTED TO HAVE ONE MADE FOR ME.
AH... IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, I THINK IT'S HER BIRTHDAY.
NEXT WEEK..?
HER BIRTH-DAY..?
DO... DO YOU REALLY THINK SO? I SOMEHOW DOUBT THAT...
HU HU... HAVING BOUGHT YOU A SUIT AND ALL, I'D SAY YOU'VE BEEN INVITED. I HAVE TO SAY IT DIDN'T TAKE YOU VERY LONG FOR HER HIGHNESS TO LIKE YOU.

TOMORROW... IS IT?
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO PICK UP A CAKE AND A PRESENT.
FLOP
SIGH—
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE ANY OF THESE VAMPIRES ARE THE ONE WE'RE LOOKING FOR

NOW THEN, GETTING BACK TO THE WHOLE APPRECIATION THING...
BUT THERE'S NOTHING ELSE WE CAN DO FOR NOW SINCE THE ONE WE'RE LOOKING FOR HASN'T SHOWN ANY ACTIVITY SINCE THE ATTACK, WE'LL HAVE TO SIT BY AND WATCH FOR ANYTHING IN THE MEANWHILE
I DON'T WANT TO GIVE UP YET...
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T BE OF MORE HELP
WELL, NO... IT'S JUST ..... NEVER MIND
IS THAT IT..?
WHY? WAS THERE SOMETHING ELSE YOU WERE EXPECTING?
THANK YOU, ALLEN I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU HELPING OUT.
HM? OH, THAT...
HE'S IN EUROPE RIGHT NOW OUTSIDE OF ENGLAND, STUCK ON A VAMPIRE RELATED CASE.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT WHERE'S MINATO..? SHOULDN'T HE BE THE MOST CONCERNED ABOUT ALL THIS?

HM?
STRANGELY ENOUGH, HE'S THE ONLY ONE THAT KEEPS CATCHING MY ATTENTION...
ALLEN, THIS MAN'S PHOTOS... ARE THESE HARD TO MAKE OUT PHOTOS THE ONLY ONES YOU HAVE OF HIM?
THEN WHY IS HE ON THE VAMPIRE LIST?
WERE RANDOM BIZARRE HOMICIDES NORMALLY UNDER YOUR JURISDICTION?
WE FOUND TWO BODIES YESTERDAY THAT WERE MISSING HEADS AND HE'S JUST SOME SUSPICIOUS LOOKING GUY TAKEN BY A CAMERA CLOSE TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME.
AH, THAT ONE. IT WAS TAKEN FROM A SECURITY CAMERA.
WHAT?
REN-FIELDS..?! HE MUST BE THE ONE THEN~!
WELL, THE THING IS, THOSE HEADLESS CORPSES TURNED OUT TO BE RENFIELDS.

.....
WAIT. DON'T TELL ME HE'S..!!
KUROE.

DANG IT...
CLICK
KUROE, ARE YOU HERE?
I GUESS HE'S NOT BACK YET.
HONESTLY~ AND HERE I THOUGHT I'D BE GRACIOUS ENOUGH TO GIVE HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENTERTAIN ME
TO HELP GET RID OF THIS BOREDOM.

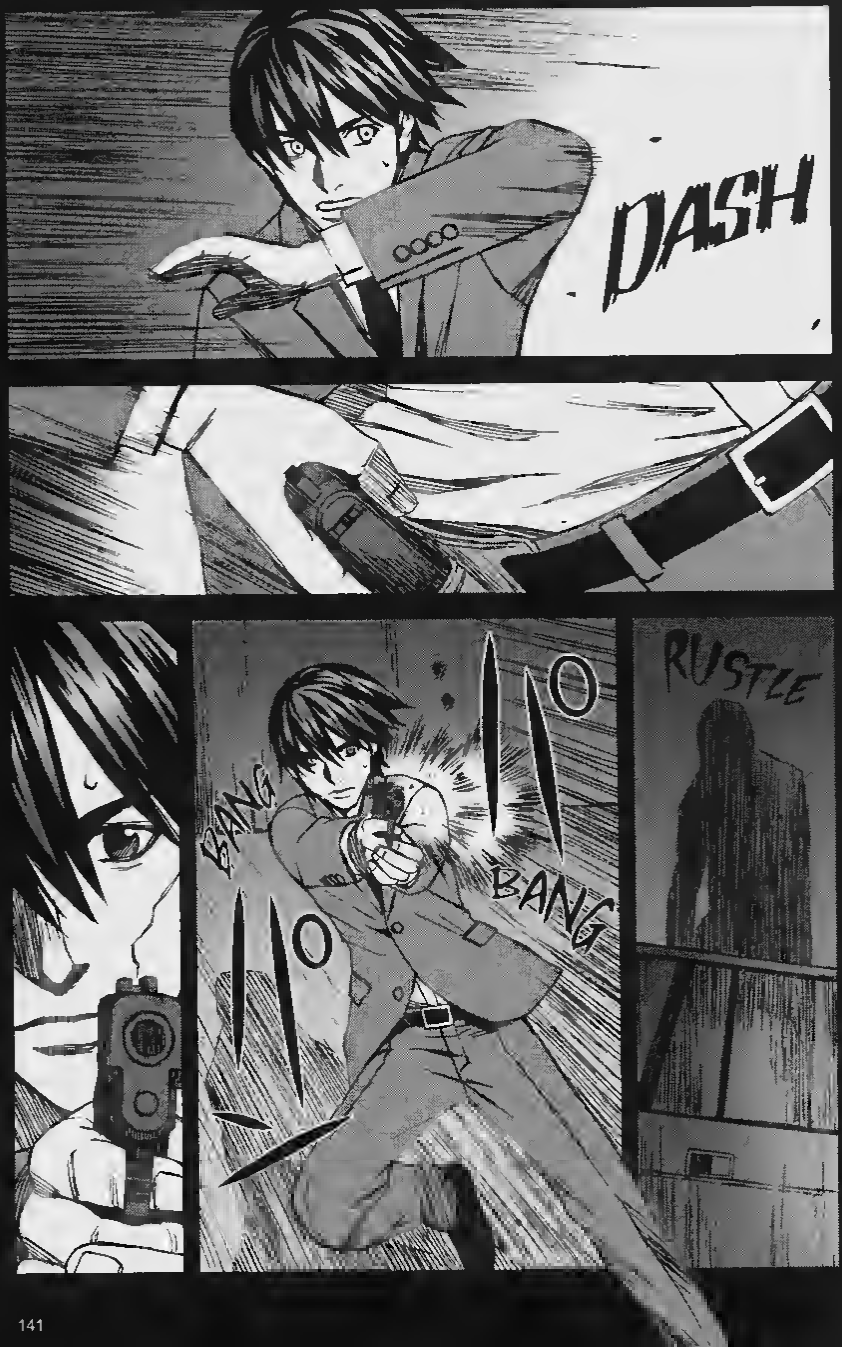
RUSTLE

PZZZT
HMP... IT'S ONLY OBVIOUS.
THIS IS WHERE HIS PRECIOUS DAUGHTER LIVES.
IT WOULD SEEM UNINVITED GUESTS AREN'T ALLOWED IN.

IS THERE SOMETHING ABOUT THAT MAN IN THE PHOTO..?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE RUSH?
DAMN IT..!! I CAN'T GET THROUGH TO THE MANSION OR KUROE..!!
BEEP~
BEEP~
I'M CERTAIN NOW, IT'S HIM!!
KAIRDOLF ..!!
HE'S A FORMER MEMBER NOW BUT HE USED TO BE IN THE TOP CIRCLES OF SPARUDA!!
ALL OF THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN A TRAP HE PLANNED FROM THE BEGINNING..!!
BUT TO THINK THAT HE WOULD APPEAR WITH THIS TIMING WHILE MR. REIJI WAS AWAY...
HE'S SOMEONE MR. REIJI HAS FOUGHT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS!!

STOP
CLICK
I GUESS I ENDED UP BEING A BIT LATE...
.....!!
CHILL

WOOSH
SHUNK


DASH
BANG
BANG
RUSTLE

BOOOM
YOU MUST BE THE VANATOARE ACTING AS HER BODYGUARD...

HE..!!
HE'S AN ARUHIEK!!

.....?
KA-BOOM
SHOOMP

CRASH
HOP
THIS MUST BE THE RESULT OF CHANGING TIMES AND THE PASSAGE OF TIME...
IT SEEMS THE LEVEL OF VANATOARES HAS DROPPED QUITE A BIT
NOWADAYS, YOU VANATOARE DEPEND ON THOSE TOYS YOU CALL GUNS, AND IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE YOU CAN'T EVEN USE A SINGLE BIT OF MAGIC.

BUT OF COURSE, "HE'S" AN EXCEPTION.
IF YOU DON'T SHOW A LITTLE MORE SPIRIT, MY HAND MAY SLIP AND I MAY ACCIDENTALLY END UP KILLING YOU.
.....!!
GOOD TIMING... SHE SHOWED UP JUST IN TIME.
.....?!

SO SHE MUST BE "HIS" DAUGHTER...
.....!!
MISAKI..!!
GASP.!
STOMP

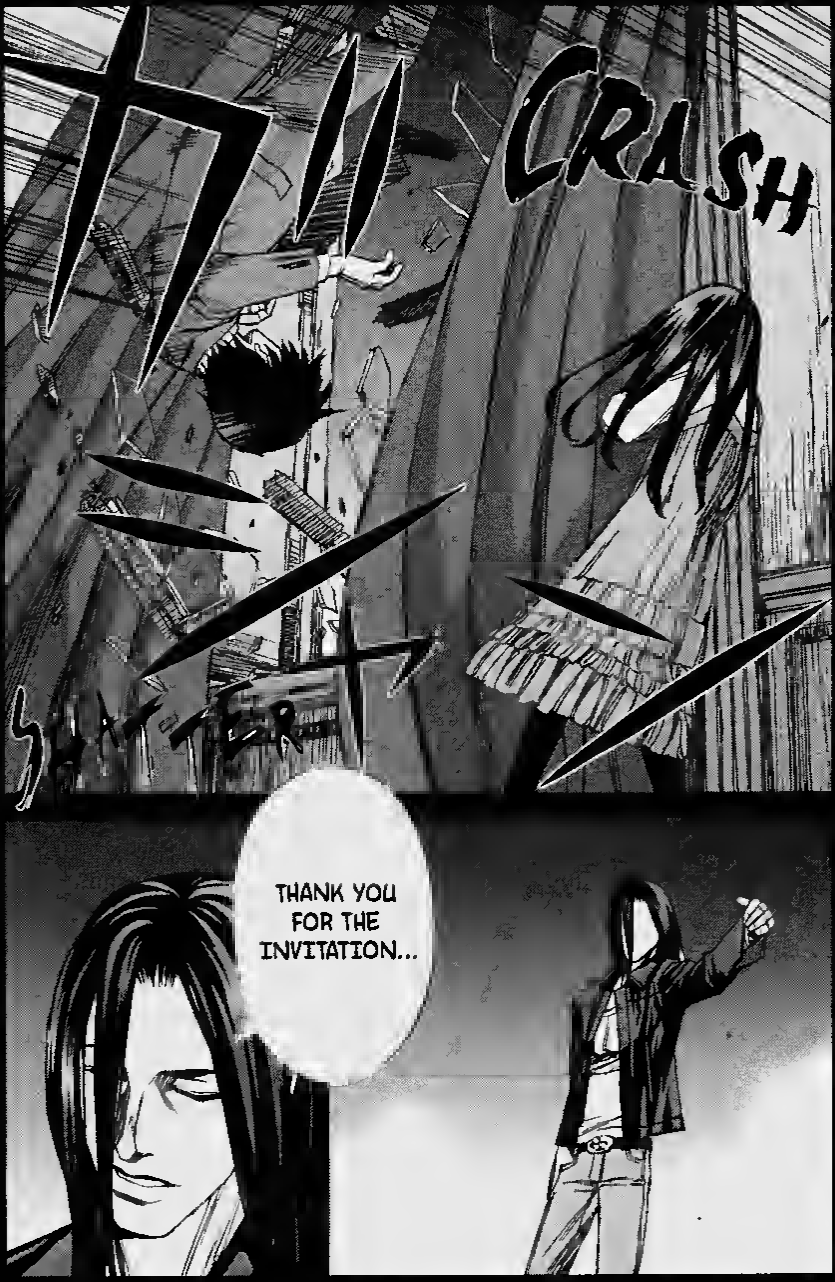
GOOD EVENING LITTLE GIRL.
.....!!
YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME FOR STOPPING BY AT THIS LATE HOUR.
BUT I CAN'T COME INSIDE RIGHT NOW BECAUSE OF A SLIGHT PROBLEM.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, SO I THOUGHT I'D STOP BY TO SAY HI
YOU SEE, I'M AN OLD FRIEND OF YOUR FATHER'S.
DON'T DO ANYTHING HE SAYS!!
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM!!

IN OTHER WORDS... SO THAT I CAN COME IN...
NOW, NOW CAN'T YOU SEE I'M TALKING TO THE YOUNG LADY?
SMA-SH
I NEED YOU TO DO EXACTLY AS I SAY
.....?
HE CAN'T COME INSIDE UNLESS YOU GIVE HIM PERMIS-SION!!
DON'T SAY IT!!
NO!!
BUT DON'T WORRY IT'S ALL VERY SIMPLE ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SAY "YOU CAN COME IN."

UNLESS YOU GIVE ME PERMISSION TO COME IN...
GRAB
LISTEN UP, LITTLE GIRL
SHUT UP.
SMASH
SWISH
KKK...
.....!!
HUMANS ARE SO FRAGILE. IT'S A SHAME.
FLOP
HM? WHAT'S THIS? DID IT BREAK ALREADY?

.....
WELL, AS YOU CAN SEE... HE'S GOING TO BE FEELING A LOT OF PAIN
SHOVE
SHOVE
IT'LL JUST MEAN THAT HE'LL HAVE A SLOW AND HORRIBLE DEATH.
STOMP
BUT IF I CAN'T CONVINCE YOU TO LET ME IN, THEN IT'S UNFORTUNATE BUT IT CAN'T BE HELPED...
AA... AAH...
POOR GUY. HE'S GOING TO DIE AND IT'S ALL GOING TO BE BECAUSE OF YOU LITTLE GIRL

SO I'M GOING TO ASK ONE MORE TIME.
IF YOU CAN'T BRING YOURSELF TO SAY THE WORDS, NODDING YOUR HEAD WILL DO.
DO I HAVE YOUR PERMISSION TO COME INSIDE?
NOD


CRASH
SHATTER
THANK YOU FOR THE INVITATION...

HU...
KUROE..!!
UUU...
AAA...
AAH...
DO YOU REMEMBER THE MEN THAT TRIED TO TAKE YOU AT THE TAILOR-SHOP? HE'S THEIR BOSS
BUT I DON'T UNDER-STAND... WHY IS THIS HAPPENING ..?!
HURRY GO UPSTAIRS AND CALL JESSIE~!!
HURRY! RUN..!!
QUICKLY GO!!
DON'T WORRY I'M FINE... GO ON AHEAD I'LL COME SOON AFTER I'VE TAKEN CARE OF HIM.
BU... BUT KUROE, YOU'RE...
YOU'RE HURT... AND YOU'RE BLEEDING A LOT..!!

TAAAAA!!

DRIP

THUND
CLANG

SLIDE
スッ
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING LYING ON THE FLOOR LIKE THAT? SLEEPING PERHAPS?
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD, YOU KNOW.

MY... MY LADY?
UUU...
SSSH...
MISAKI... IS ON THE SECOND FLOOR...
MY LADY... PLEASE... HELP HER.
A VAMPIRE... IS AFTER HER.

SLAP
I'M SORRY. I DON'T THINK I HEARD YOU RIGHT...
IT ALMOST SOUNDED AS IF YOU WERE ASKING FOR HELP. BUT THAT'S PROBABLY JUST MY IMAGINATION...

SLAP
NO
I... I CAN'T BEAT H...
THAT VAMPIRE... HE'S AN ARUHIEK...
MY LADY... YOU WERE WATCHING THIS WHOLE TIME... WEREN'T YOU?
HAAA
HAAA
COUGH...
CAN'T BEAT HIM..?
RUSH
DID I JUST HEAR YOU SAY THAT?

SAY MY NAME.
WHAT'S WRONG? DID YOU HIT YOUR HEAD SO MANY TIMES THAT YOU'VE FORGOTTEN YOUR MASTER'S NAME, YOU FOOL?
.....?
MY NAME, WHAT IS IT?
KU...
KUROE...

KU-RO-E!!
THAT'S RIGHT~
I'M THE MASTER OF A THOUSAND SURREPTITIOUS SKILLS, AND THE ONE WHO MANIPULATES REMARKABLE EVENTS YOU CALL MIRACLES. I AM THE ULTIMATE BEING.
KUROE IS THE NAME OF THE GREATEST MAGICIAN IN ALL OF CREATION FOR ALL PERPETUITY!!
THAT IS MY NAME!!
FLAP
TOSS

AND YOU HAVE THE SAME POWER AS I.
YES. YOU HAVE THE SAME NAME AS I.
KURO... E...
.....
NOW, WHAT IS YOUR NAME?!
SWAP
THROUGH A FLEETING WHIM, AND BY A SMALL COINCIDENTAL CHANCE .. I BESTOWED SOME OF MY POWERS ON YOU
HAHA
NO...
TO BE MORE CORRECT

ALL THE NUMEROUS CHANCE EVENTS THAT CAME TOGETHER ONE AFTER ANOTHER FROM THE MOMENT YOU ACCEPTED MY POWERS COINCIDENCE CHANGED INTO SOMETHING INEVITABLE AND DESTINED TO HAPPEN
AND FOR THAT REASON WE WERE DESTINED TO MEET AND FOR THAT REASON YOU GAINED THE POWERS YOU WERE DESTINED FOR
FOR YOU, IT'S POWER THAT YOU'LL ABSOLUTELY NEED ONE DAY
SO EVEN WITH THOSE POWERS, IF YOU THINK I'LL ALLOW YOU TO ACCEPT DEFEAT BY A MERE BLOOD SUCKING INSECT
NO MATTER HOW MANY HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF EXCUSES YOU GIVE, OR HOW MANY MILLIONS OF TIMES YOU PLEAD
I WILL NEVER ALLOW IT!!
KUROE...

.....!!
AND WHILE YOU'RE LOST IN YOUR INDECISIVENESS AND RUNNING FROM YOUR FATE, HOW MANY MORE PEOPLE PRECIOUS TO YOU WILL YOU HAVE TO LOSE BEFORE YOU'RE SATISFIED?
HOW PATHETIC!!
EVERY MINISCULE INCH OF YOU IS THAT OF A TRULY PATHETIC MAN!!
DID YOU NOT SWEAR A KNIGHT'S OATH UPON THAT CHILD'S TEARS TO PROTECT HER?
OR WERE THOSE MERELY INSINCERE WORDS SPOKEN TO A GULLIBLE CHILD?

To Be Continued In Blood Alone Volume 5...

BLOOD ALONE